

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## OPINION METER

### This week's poll:

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to cast your vote.

## INSIDE



### 5 Recyclables

Recycle these five items that the holidays are sure to leave behind.

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### Do or Di

Kate Middleton will be jousting with the memory of the late Princess Di.

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Annual Christmas bird count on Dec. 27. **PAGE 3**  
DUI, sobriety checkpoints this weekend. **PAGE 8**

**WITH DAYS TO GO BEFORE YEAR'S END**

## Fitial yet to deliver SOCA



### GIFTS FROM THE HEART

The staff and faculty of Marianas High School held their first annual Community Outreach Dinner last Friday, honoring Karidat this year. Each of the MHS staff and faculty brought a gift or two for donation to Karidat to support the many children that will be in need this holiday season. MHS principal Craig Garrison said he is thankful that his staff and faculty opened their heart this year to the children who would otherwise go without. The school donated nearly 100 gifts to Karidat.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## More people dropping medical insurance

### » Govt paid \$7.4M for medical referral in FY2010

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
[moneth\\_deposa@saipantribune.com](mailto:moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The CNMI government spent over \$7 million for its medical referral program last fiscal year, the bulk of which was spent on the travel expenses of patients referred to off-island hospitals or clinics.

According to Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez yesterday, the department's medical referral cost in fiscal year 2010 was the highest incurred in the last several years.

Comparatively, the government spent just \$6.9 million for this program in fis-

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## CHC staff housing stipend, overtime delayed

### » DPH assures payment and non-termination of benefits

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Staff members of the Commonwealth Health Center are up in arms over the government's non-payment of their housing allowance and overtime pay.

Saipan Tribune learned that CHC staff are now being made to wait for up to four pay periods to claim their overtime checks, when the longest they previously had to wait was a single pay period.

Hospital employees who have depen-

See CHC on Page 4

» Froilan says 'forget 2010' but wants 2011 report



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

With only nine days left before the end of 2010, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has yet to deliver his annual State of the Commonwealth Address, amid one of the worst years in CNMI's recent history highlighted by partial payless paydays and partial government shutdown.

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### LUNAR ECLIPSE

A partial eclipse of the moon is shown in this photo taken at 7:30pm Tuesday night on Saipan. Skywatchers in North America and Central America were luckier, as they got to watch the total eclipse of the moon. The celestial spectacle lasted 3 1/2 hours but the totality phase—when the moon was completely covered by the Earth's shadow—lasted 72 minutes only. The year's only total lunar eclipse coincided with winter solstice. The last time this occurred was more than three centuries ago on Dec. 21, 1638. It will happen again on Dec. 21, 2094, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory. The next total lunar eclipse will occur in June 2011.

JAIME VERGARA

## CNMI census population count out in summer 2011

### » US population up 9.7 percent over 2000 Census

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI population estimates based on the 2010 Census will be released in the summer of 2011, even as the U.S. Census Bureau reported

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# Local

## DHS to issue one other NMI federalization rule in March

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Besides a March 2011 self-imposed deadline to release the long-awaited CNMI-only transitional worker rule, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security also intends to issue during that period the final rule on the application of federal immigration regulations to the CNMI.

This pertains to the DHS and U.S. Department of Justice's implementation of conforming amendments to their own regu-

lations to comply with Public Law 110-229, which federalized CNMI immigration on Nov. 28, 2009.

The final rule amends the regulations governing asylum and references to the geographical "United States" and its territories and possessions, among other things.

It also amends the rules governing alien classifications authorized for employment, documentation acceptable for employment eligibility verification, employment of unauthor-

ized aliens, and adjustment of status of immediate relatives admitted under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

DHS' previous self-imposed deadlines on the release of the final E-2 CNMI-investor rule in July 2010 and the CNMI-only transitional worker rule in September 2010 were not met.

DHS just issued the final investor rule this month, and the final worker rule is set to be released six months after the first deadline.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said

he would like to ask Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano early next year to allow the CNMI to continue implementing its labor and immigration laws absent the implementation of federal statutes or rules.

### 'Premium processing suspension'

At the same time, DHS' U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services suspended the "premium" or expedited processing for petitioners filing a Form I-129 on behalf of a

CNMI nonimmigrant worker "requesting a change of status or initial grant of status."

The Form I-129 is for employers who petition for an alien to come to the U.S. temporarily to perform services or labor, or to receive training, as an H-1B, H-1C, H-2A, H-2B, H-3, L-1, O-1, O-2, P-1, P-1S, P-2, P-2S, P-3, P-3S, Q-1 or R-1 nonimmigrant worker, USCIS said in its website.

Employers may also use this form to request an extension of stay or change of status for an alien as an E-1, E-2, or TN non-immigrant.

"USCIS is suspending premium processing for change of status or initial grant of status in the [CNMI] until we can reasonably ensure that we can complete processing within 15 calendar days," USCIS said in a statement.

Premium processing service provides faster processing for certain employment-based petitions and applications.

Specifically, USCIS guarantees 15 calendar day processing

to those petitioners or applicants who choose to use this service, or USCIS will refund the premium processing service fee.

USCIS said the suspension of premium processing only affects petitions requesting change of status or initial grant of status.

"USCIS will continue to provide premium processing services for Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker, petitions for workers in the CNMI who request a consulate or embassy be notified of an approved petition; an extension of status; or an amendment to his or her status," the federal agency said.

Information about premium processing service, including who may request this service, is available on the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) or by calling the USCIS National Customer Service Center toll free at (800) 375-5283.

The public is encouraged to continue checking the CNMI web page at [www.uscis.gov/cnmi](http://www.uscis.gov/cnmi) for announcements and updated information.

## NMC readies supplemental accreditation report

Northern Marianas College officials said yesterday they will be able to submit on time the mandated supplemental report that will update the Western Association of Schools and Colleges on NMC's progress at rectifying WASC's concerns.

Accreditation liaison officer Galvin Deleon Guerrero told the Board of Regents yesterday that the full packet will be officially transmitted to WASC on Dec. 27.

Interim president Lorraine Cabrera and Deleon Guerrero are also being asked to appear before WASC members at the

Jan. 13, 2011, executive session.

Both Cabrera and Deleon Guerrero said that they are optimistic of a positive action next month—that NMC's accreditation will be reaffirmed.

NMC was placed in show-cause status as a result of 10 new recommendations cited by the commission. Failure to address these concerns will result in the termination of its WASC accreditation.

The board was also informed that this early, NMC is already starting to prepare for the WASC self-study visit in March 2012. (Moneth Deposa)



The Saipan Tribune will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24, and next Friday, Dec. 31, in celebration of Christmas and the New Year.

There will therefore be no newspaper on Saturday, Dec. 25, and next Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011.

The Saipan Tribune Person of the Year and Year-end Reports will be published in the Dec. 31 edition of the newspaper.

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# Annual bird count on Dec. 27

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is urging wildlife enthusiasts on island to join thousands of volunteers throughout the United States that will take part in this year's Christmas Bird Count.

The annual bird count, slated for Dec. 27, is the longest running wildlife census to assess bird populations initiated by the Audubon Society.

Ornithologist Paul Radley said this would be the 111<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count in the U.S. of the Audubon Society and the CNMI has participated in this project in the last 13 years.

Radley said participants of the Christmas Bird Count will meet at 6am on Monday at the American Memorial Park parking lot.

Radley said they already have two technicians from Fish and

Wildlife and two volunteers who will take part in the count but they need more volunteers and these need not be experienced birdwatchers. Novice volunteers will be paired with experts in the bird count.

On a good year, Radley said they get six to eight participants for the Christmas Bird Count.

"More people means more eyes and ears on the ground so we could really use more people that are interested to do this," he said.

Radley said the bird count will start in the morning and end on or before sunset, with a one-hour lunch meeting at Coffee Care where they will compile what they have collected. The data gathered will be compiled and sent to the headquarters of the Audubon Society in Washington D.C.

The ornithologist noted that there is a participation fee of \$5 to cover the cost of data entry analysis and a copy of the *American Birds* magazine, which contains information about the previous year's bird count.

Radley said this year's bird count will be conducted on a Monday since they follow tidal movements.

"It's lowest at 6am so we start then because we want to catch birds at the mudflats and the boat ramps. We work with tides," he said.

Radley encouraged all bird watchers and enthusiasts to experience the beauty of wildlife and join the efforts of bird study and conservation.

"This is a good time. It's a lot of fun. You'll learn something about maybe more than you know about the birds that are here, especially for people that live here that may not have much experience or exposure to them," he said.

Interested volunteers should contact Radley at the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 664-6011.

## Tinian lawmakers OK \$16K for about 30 patients

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Tinian lawmakers approved yesterday a \$16,000 monthly subsistence allowance for almost 30 Tinian patients, a \$5,000 increase from the original proposal of only \$11,000.

The four-member Tinian Legislative Delegation chaired by Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) passed House Local Bill 17-28, Draft 1 at a session yesterday afternoon.

But the bill still needs the governor's signature for the appropriation to reach the Tinian patients.

Rep. Trenton Conner's (R-Tinian) bill appropriates \$16,000 in poker and pachinko slot machine license fees for the monthly subsistence allow-

ance of to be equally distributed among almost 30 patients from Tinian who are on dialysis, have cancer, multiple sclerosis, debilitating epilepsy seizure disorder, dermatomyositis, and post cerebrovascular accident patients.

During the brief delegation session in Hofschneider's conference room, Conner made a floor amendment to his local bill, removing a \$5,000 appropriation originally meant to help defray costs to the CNMI related to the 2010 Little League Champion-

ship in Jakarta, Indonesia.

"That \$5,000 will now also go to the Tinian patients, for a total of \$16,000. Tinian patients' appropriation used to be only \$11,000," Conner told *Saipan Tribune*.

Under his bill, the Finance secretary is the expenditure authority for the \$16,000.

Besides Hofschneider and Conner, the other delegation members are Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian).

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# NMC to host free info session in Jan.

Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend the Northern Marianas College's free information session on Jan. 5, 2011, in Room D1 at the college's As Terlaje campus, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs, as well as counseling, financial

aid, and admissions will be on hand to answer questions. Other current students will also be speaking about their experiences at NMC.

Individuals who attend the free information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for the spring 2011 semester. This corresponds to a savings of about \$75. Registration for

the spring 2011 semester will begin on Jan. 7, 2011, and will continue until Jan. 15, 2011.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business ad-

ministration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

The free information session is open to everyone, including graduating seniors and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students, and members of the general public who are interested in learning more about the programs at NMC. (NMC)



## OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Brig. Gen. Michele G. Compton, the commanding general of the 9th Mission Support Command, presents Lt. Col. Edward Camacho with her commander's coin for excellence at the American Memorial Theater, Dec. 15. Compton recognized Camacho for his outstanding support and service to the U.S. Army Reserve. Camacho, a 30-year veteran, volunteered for deployment and is slated to mobilize early next year out of Fort Hood, Texas. This will be his second deployment to the Middle East. "I'm going to miss Saipan and I'm definitely going to miss all of you," said Camacho to his fellow soldiers and their family members. When asked what advice he would give to other soldiers, Camacho said, "Continue to train hard and be ready for any opportunities the Army throws your way."

CHRISTINA DOUGLAS, 9TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND

## CHC

From Page 1

dents receive a monthly housing allowance of \$800, while single employees take home \$600.

Employees interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday said the government failed to give them their housing allowance last pay period.

A CHC staffer for over 15 years also claimed yesterday that in a particular section of the hospital, overtime payment is delayed by three pay periods covering Nov. 3, 19, and Dec. 3. The staff said they're hoping that all checks will be issued out before the end of the year.

All employees interviewed for this story agreed to speak on the condition

that they not be named.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez admitted the delayed issuance of personnel's housing allowance and overtime payment but he assured that these would be paid as soon as the government identifies funding sources.

"There's a delay in the release of their housing allowance and overtime...not because we just want to delay it but because we don't have the finances to do so. I hope they understand and we're doing our best to address this concern," Villagomez said.

He said the delay varies, depending on the unit and section.

Despite these delays, he assured that the government is not considering any plan to suspend or terminate the hous-

ing benefits for CHC workers at this time.

"We need these workers and other places need them, so the reality is, if you don't give them one benefit and the other places offer them, they may choose to leave us. My feeling is, if we don't continue to provide that, a lot of them will leave our hospital," he said, adding that delivery of healthcare remains the priority of the government.

The housing allowance is an incentive given to employees who were hired from off-island. Over 200 personnel currently get this benefit.

The housing allowance was suspended last year because of declining revenues but the government was forced to restore this incentive after the hospital sustained several resignations.

## MEDICAL

From Page 1

cal year 2009.

Villagomez said most of the expenses are split between airline costs for patients and escorts, hotel accommodations for patients and escorts, subsistence allowance for patients and escorts, and medical expenditures.

The amount covers all referrals to Manila, Guam, Honolulu and sometimes, to other parts of the United States.

"While the trend for 2011 is on the upswing, it will most likely not surpass 2010 because airlines are [currently] not processing tickets or hospital facilities are not accepting patients from the CNMI because of non-payments," said Villagomez.

He attributed the surge in last year's referral costs to the fact that more and more people are dropping their health insurance, forcing the government to shoulder a bigger part of people's medical expenses.

Since health insurance is not man-

dated, Villagomez said the government shouldered the expenses in full for patients, majority of whom are not qualified for Medicaid assistance.

"What we're seeing now is that a lot of people that come to the medical program do not have Medicaid. They're dropping their health insurance because this is not among their top priorities. They said they have to deal with their mortgage, car loans, and other important expenses so when they get sick and they come to the hospital...We're spending more for their treatment," explained Villagomez.

According to Villagomez, heart-related illnesses and cancer cases comprise the majority of medically referred patients. Although patients from Rota and Tinian are also considered medical referral cases, DPH said that many cases were sent to Guam and Manila hospitals.

Villagomez admitted that due to the government's financial constraints and the spotty payment history of the CNMI, some off-island hospitals such as in the Philippines now hesitate to accept the islands' medically referred

patients.

"There are times when we don't have options when hospitals do not want to accept our patients because of payment issues. There are also times when airlines refuse them because of the same payment concern. It's really tough...and we're struggling," he said, adding that DPH is just fortunate that there are still some providers and vendors who honor patients on a case-by-case basis.

On many occasions, Villagomez said, they just opt not to send follow-up cases to off-island providers, preferring to wait until airlines or hospitals could accommodate them.

Since October this year, travel agencies on Saipan have stopped processing the airline tickets of medically referred patients due to the government's non-payment of about \$180,000 in arrears.

To date, Villagomez said only one travel firm is allowing the processing of off-island patients.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that DPH spent a total of \$16.3 million to refer medical cases to facilities outside the Commonwealth from fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## CENSUS

From Page 1

Tuesday that the national population rose by 9.7 percent from a decade ago.

There were 308,745,538 people living in the United States as of April 1, 2010, up from 281,421,906 in the 2000 Census.

The Dec. 21 release and delivery of the national data to President Barack Obama came 10 days before the Dec. 31 deadline.

In a statement yesterday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the census data, "although done only once in a decade, will bring much awaited and needed data to all data users in NMI and the rest of the nation."

Acting Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar received from U.S. Census Bureau's Bill Caldwell the schedule of release of CNMI data, starting with the CNMI's population estimates by local district level of geography in summer 2011. It will be available to the public in paper format.

The U.S. Census Bureau will release the second CNMI data product or the demographic profile by places or villages level of geography in the spring of 2012, in paper and DVD format. It can also be accessed via the Internet.

The third release will be the summary file highlighting detailed characteristics of the CNMI population and housing census blocks/block groups and tracts level of geography, set for the fall of 2012. It will also be released in DVD

## FITAL

From Page 1

In his first term, Fitial would always deliver the SOCA in April or May of each year.

He was re-elected to a second term in November 2009 and took his oath in January this year.

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that Fitial should have delivered a SOCA before he submitted his fiscal year 2011 budget.

Tenorio said he doesn't mind the governor not delivering a SOCA or submitting a written report about the affairs of the CNMI before the end of calendar year 2010.

"But I would like for the governor to report to the Legislature about the state of the Commonwealth early next year, before he submits his FY 2012 budget to the Legislature," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said the Senate had already adopted in August a joint resolution calling for a Sept. 14 joint session of the House and Senate to receive the governor's SOCA, but he said the House did not adopt the resolution.

The target date for the SOCA came and went, but the Legislature did not pursue the matter.

Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes' Senate Joint Resolution 17-1, adopted on a 9-0 vote, proposed to have the SOCA in the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill.

But House floor leader George Ca-

macho (Ind-Saipan) said the main purpose for the governor to report to the Legislature is to inform the body about the budget "and what we as the Legislature needs to do."

"We already have a budget that was created through constant communication with the administration. However, we will be requesting a full report soon from the governor way before he submits the 2012 budget in April," Camacho said.

Article III Section 9 (b) of the CNMI Constitution requires the governor to report "at least annually to the Legislature regarding the affairs of the Commonwealth and new measures that are necessary or desirable."

It also says the report "shall include a comprehensive annual financial report prepared in accordance with generally accepted governmental accounting principles."

Press secretary Angel Demapan said this matter "is currently under legal advisement."

He said the Office of the Attorney General is now reviewing the constitutional provision on the governor's reporting to the Legislature.

Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) said "it would be nice to have a SOCA" from the governor this year.

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), as well as other lawmakers asked yesterday, said the SOCA matter has simply been forgotten this year.

The last joint session of the Legislature to receive Fitial's SOCA was on May 27, 2009.



# 'Funding is main hurdle for health care reform in NMI'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
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REPORTER

Funding remains the biggest challenge to successfully implement health care reform in the Commonwealth.

"Right now, what we need is financial resources," acting Commerce secretary and insurance commissioner Sixto Isigomar told *Saipan Tribune*.

Isigomar was among the presenters in Tuesday's health conference called "Health Care Reform: Major Changes for the CNMI" at the Royal Taga Hall.

## High Court affirms lower court ruling in CDA foreclosure case

The Supreme Court issued Tuesday a unanimous decision affirming the Superior Court's final judgment in *Commonwealth Development Authority v. Camacho*. The Supreme Court held that the Superior Court properly issued its final judgment that allowed CDA to foreclose on two parcels of the Camachos' real property for their failure to honor the mortgage's terms.

The dispute arose after CDA initiated a foreclosure proceeding against the Camachos in the Superior Court. When CDA filed its lawsuit, it also brought the Department of Finance into the litigation because DOF possessed a tax lien against the Camachos' real property. Before CDA could foreclose on the Camachos' property, its claim to the real property and the Department of Finance's competing claim had to be resolved. As a result of being brought into the lawsuit, the Department of Finance immediately filed a claim against the Camachos for unpaid taxes. The Camachos, however, neither responded to CDA's nor the Department of Finance's allegations.

After the Superior Court held several hearings and issued several orders without the Camachos being present, they eventually appeared in court and opposed CDA. They were initially successful in slowing down CDA in its attempt to foreclose on their property, but they never moved to vacate the Superior Court's earlier decision that CDA could foreclose on their property. Despite the Camachos' initial success in preventing CDA from foreclosing on their property, CDA and the Department of Finance eventually reached an independent settlement concerning their respective interests in the Camachos' property. After the Superior Court accepted their agreement, CDA once again asked the Superior Court to issue a final judgment. The Superior Court agreed and issued a judgment ordering the Camachos to pay the full mortgage amount plus interest, late fees, costs, and

of Saipan World Resort.

Isigomar said Commerce needs funding to hire more staff to carry out corresponding work in relation to the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 next year.

PPACA which was enacted on March 23, and HCERA, which was enacted on March 26, collectively form the Affordable Care Act.

The Affordable Care Act features far-reaching reforms

penalty charges, for a total of \$432,978.35, or have their property foreclosed on by CDA.

The Camachos then filed an appeal with the Supreme Court alleging that the final judgment was improperly certified as "final." In the alternative, they argued that if the final judgment was properly issued that CDA failed to comply with the notice provisions from the Commonwealth's Real Estate Mortgage Law, and also that the final judgment failed to protect their right of redemption also conferred by the Real Estate Mortgage Law. The Real Estate Mortgage Law requires that a mortgagee, like CDA, give notice to a property owner of its intent to foreclose on their property if they are in violation of the mortgage's terms. The law lists several requirements that must be complied with for notice to be adequate. The law also confers on property owners a right of redemption. Redemption rights allow a property owner to buy back his or her property within a specified timeframe after a foreclosure sale.

The Supreme Court held that the Superior Court properly followed all procedural requirements in issuing the final judgment. It further held that it could not consider the Camachos' notice argument because the resolution of that issue required the Court to examine evidence that was not first introduced in the Superior Court. Commonwealth law prohibits the Supreme Court from reviewing evidence that was not first introduced in the Superior Court. The Supreme Court finally held that the final judgment protected the Camachos' redemption rights. While the Camachos did not raise their redemption argument in the Superior Court, the resolution of that issue only required the Supreme Court to review the trial court's record and the applicable statutes.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Commonwealth Development Authority v. Antonio S. Camacho, et al.*, 2010 MP 19, and can be found at <http://www.justice.gov.mp/>. (PR)

in American health care system that takes effect from 2010 to 2018. These reforms are built on the current employer-based system that would impact every employer in the U.S. and its territories.

To address the funding issue,

Isigomar said the CNMI applied for the rate review grant and the information or ombudsman office grant.

Isigomar said he is hoping to get at least one grant, preferably the rate review grant, which will enable them to cre-

ate an office that would handle all requests from carriers to effectively implement the Affordable Care Act.

"I know that [the Department of Health & Human Services] has assured us that they'll be there for us and as much as

possible they'll assist in providing us resources," he said.

Isigomar also noted the need to work with the Legislature to promulgate regulations that will implement applicable provisions of the Affordable Care Act in the CNMI.

## Tinian student to represent the CNMI in journalism conference

Mary Hocog, a rising senior at the Tinian Junior/Senior High School, has been selected to represent the Northern Marianas Islands as a National Youth Correspondent to the 2011 Washington Journalism and Media Conference at George Mason University.

Hocog joins a select group of students from all over the

country for an intensive study of journalism and media. Hocog was chosen based on academic accomplishments and a demonstrated interest and excellence in journalism and media studies.

With distinguished faculty,



Hocog

guest speakers, and direct access to elite D.C. practitioners, The Washington Journalism and Media conference offers aspiring journalists and student leaders an unparalleled experience.

The weeklong program, held

at George Mason University's state-of-the-art campus, will encourage and inspire young leaders from across the country who desire a unique experience focused on successful careers in this dynamic industry.

The Washington Journalism and Media Conference will be held July 10-July 15, 2011. (PR)

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## Computer group wins Paskong Pinoy's lantern making contest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@yahoo.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan Building & Fixing Computer User's Group bagged the first prize in the Lantern Making Contest at the 2010 Paskong Pinoy last Saturday at the Mount Carmel Cathedral grounds.

The group won \$100 for making a lantern made of recycled

materials like bamboo, coconut leaves, used beach mats and CDs.

Group adviser Mar Masilungan said this is the second time that the group joined the contest for the Filipino community's Christmas celebration.

He said the group, founded in December 2006, won second place in last year's lantern making contest.

"Our efforts in making the lantern, which have been recognized after winning the contest, were worth it," Masilungan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Masilungan said about 11 members of the group spent a few hours every after work for five nights to come up with the concept and construction of the lantern.

He said that since their concept leaned toward technology, they used more CDs for the lan-

tern body and even fabricated 9-volt LED blinkers for the lantern tail.

More than the prestige and cash prize, however, Masilungan said the group cherish the bond they shared while making the lantern.

"There was cooperation among members and they really bonded together while making the lantern," he said.

Just like last year, Masilungan said they donated the lantern to the Kristo Rai Parish for display at the church for the rest of the holiday season.

The group handed the lantern to Fr. Celso Magbanua Monday night.

After winning the contest, Masilungan disclosed that some group members want to "dream big" and are looking into joining the float contest in next year's Fourth of July festivities.



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### IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The Kagman High School JROTC Ayuyu Battalion completed their Christmas food drive with outstanding results. The cadets collected over 327 items valued at over \$600 to donate to the Karidat Foundation for needy families for the Christmas days. From left to right: C/2LT Michael Lampha, C/LTC Debra Buekis, C/CSM Gaven Sablan, C/1LT Christopher Punzalan, and C/SSG Russell Hocog.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Northern Islands' mayor urges people to reflect this Christmas

The year 2010 has been one of the most difficult years experienced in the CNMI and the rest of the world, according to Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan.

Aldan said 2010 was "a rough sea sailing" since the government implemented austerity measures and budget cuts.

According to Aldan, it was also this year when the government made history with the first ever government shutdown and government employees experienced partial and payless paydays.

But the Northern Islands Mayor urged his constituents and the rest of the Commonwealth to reflect on the true meaning of the holiday season.

"Christmas is so much more than parties and presents. It's about spending time with loved ones, being thankful for what you have and remembering the birth of Christ and the light He brought into the world," he said.

Aldan encouraged the people to share Christ's light with those who suffer from hardships, illness, grief or loneliness.

He asked everyone to remember this holiday season the sons and daughters of the CNMI who are on active military duty to bring peace throughout the world and wish them a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

Aldan urged his constituents to be thankful for the people of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for their continued hospitality and consideration for their needs while waiting for their return to the Northern Islands.

Aldan vowed to continue being the humble servant of the Northern Islands residents and serving them to the best of his ability.

"On behalf of my wife and children, we wish you all the very best of Christmas and a prosperous New Year," said the mayor. (Clarissa David)



# HAPPY HOLIDAY SPECIAL SALE

DECEMBER 23, 2010 - JANUARY 3, 2011

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<div>DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE</div> <div><div><div>\$25<sup>99</sup></div><div>50 LBS.</div></div><div><div>\$12<sup>99</sup></div><div>20 LBS.</div></div><div><div>\$22<sup>95</sup></div><div>50 LBS.</div></div></div>	<div>GUAM JASMINE RICE</div> <div><div><div>\$24<sup>99</sup></div><div>50 LBS.</div></div></div>	<div>LOTUS JASMINE RICE</div> <div><div><div>\$14<sup>99</sup></div></div></div>	<div>MILLER SAUSAGE</div> <div><div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div><div>/LB.</div></div></div>	<div>BEEF FINGER MEAT</div> <div><div><div>\$9<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 LBS.</div></div><div><div>\$16<sup>99</sup></div><div>10 LBS.</div></div></div>	<div>GROUND BEEF</div> <div><div><div>\$8<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 LBS.</div></div><div><div>\$16<sup>99</sup></div><div>10 LBS.</div></div></div>	<div>CHOP HAM</div> <div><div><div>\$1<sup>89</sup></div><div>100G</div></div></div>			
<div>TURKEY TAIL</div> <div><div><div>\$19<sup>99</sup></div><div>20# / CASE</div></div></div>	<div>MACKEREL SABA</div> <div><div><div>\$19<sup>99</sup></div><div>/ CASE</div></div></div>	<div>BAR-S HOTDOG</div> <div><div><div>\$1<sup>09</sup></div></div></div>	<div>BAR-S BACON</div> <div><div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div></div></div>	<div>VEGA SHRIMP</div> <div><div><div>\$4<sup>99</sup></div></div></div>	<div>GREEN MUSSELS</div> <div><div><div>\$4<sup>99</sup></div></div></div>	<div>TILAPIA</div> <div><div><div>99¢</div><div>/LB.</div></div><div><div>\$37<sup>99</sup></div><div>CASE</div></div></div>	<div>MILK FISH</div> <div><div><div>\$1<sup>49</sup></div><div>/LB.</div></div></div>	<div>SQUID</div> <div><div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div><div>/LB.</div></div></div>	<div>EGG MEDDIUM</div> <div><div><div>\$1<sup>29</sup></div><div>/DOZ.</div></div></div>

**ERIES GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GRO**

SPAM <b>\$2<sup>29</sup></b>	BLACK LABEL <b>\$1<sup>59</sup></b>	OX & PALM <b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b>	CORNED BEEF HASH <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b>	CHILLI NO BEAN <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b>	DINTY MOORE BEEF STEW <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b>	SPRINGFIELD TUNA 6 OZ. <b>89¢</b>	COCO TUNA <b>\$1<sup>09</sup></b>
ACE OF DIAMOND TUNA <b>\$1<sup>19</sup></b>	HORMEL CHILI NO BEANS 2 FOR <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b> 7.5 OZ.	LIGO SARDINES 3 FOR <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b> 0.32 OZ.	CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP <b>99¢</b>	CREAM OF MUSHROOM <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b>	MORTON SALT <b>69¢</b>	KIKOMAN SOY SAUCE <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> 1.6 L.	SOY SAUCE <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> 1.7 LB.
DELMONTE FIESTA FRUIT COCKTAIL <b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b> 6X#10	VEGETABLE OIL <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 1 GAL.	VLASSIC WHOLE DILL PICKLE <b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b> 128 OZ.	DELMONTE SPAGHETTI SAUCE 2 FOR <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> 26 OZ.	ICHIBAN RAMEN <b>\$8<sup>99</sup></b> CASE	CHAMORRO PUNCH <b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b> 2 LTR.	NONGSHIM BOWL SOBA <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> CASE	CARNATION MILK <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b>
NESTEA <b>\$8<sup>99</sup></b> 36 Q.	SUGAR <b>99¢</b> 1K. <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b> 2K.	KOOL AID TROPICAL PUNCH <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 34 QRTS.	TANG <b>\$9<sup>99</sup></b> 22 Q.	LIPTON ICED TEA <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 38 QRTS.	GOLD MEDAL FLOUR <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> 5 LB.	REAL FRESH MILK <b>\$20<sup>99</sup></b>	DEL MONTE WHOLE KERNEL CORN <b>79¢</b>

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LITE BEER <b>\$9<sup>99</sup></b> 12 PACK	BUDWEISER <b>\$26<sup>99</sup></b> CASE	COKE <b>\$13<sup>99</sup></b> CASE
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HI-C 240 ML <b>\$11<sup>99</sup></b> CASE	ASSAM BLACK TEA <b>\$8<sup>95</sup></b> CASE	KOOL AID JAMMERS <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> BOX

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LUCKY ME SOBA 4 FOR <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b>	ICHIBAN MISO FLAVOR <b>\$12<sup>99</sup></b> CASE	SANG SANG FRESH UDONG 2 FOR <b>\$3<sup>00</sup></b>

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FRESH KIMCHEE <b>\$3<sup>49</sup></b> 150T	POTATOES <b>69¢</b> /LB.	ONION <b>59¢</b> /LB.
NAPA <b>79¢</b> /LB.	GREEN CABBAGE <b>69¢</b> /LB.	US BROCCOLI <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b> /LB.
GARLIC <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b> /NET	ORANGE <b>89¢</b> /LB.	EGG EXTRA LARGE <b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b> /DOZ.
US BELL PEPPER <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b> /LB.	LOCAL LEMON <b>59¢</b> /LB.	US BANANA <b>99¢</b> /LB.

<b>FAMILY BAG</b>	<b>PORK CHOP \$10<sup>95</sup></b>	<b>PORK BUTT \$9<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>PORK ADOBO \$9<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>PORK SPARERIBS \$6<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>BEEF STEW \$12<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>BEEF BACKRIBS \$6<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>BEEF SHORTRIBS \$12<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>STEWING CHICKEN \$6<sup>99</sup></b>
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**FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD**

TIDE LIQUID DETERGENT <b>\$16<sup>99</sup></b> 100 OZ.	GAIN LIQUID DETERGENT <b>\$10<sup>99</sup></b> 100 OZ.	GAIN POWDER DETERGENT <b>\$12<sup>99</sup></b> 80 LOAD	CHARMIN TISSUE <b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b> 24 ROLLS	TOILET TISSUE <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> 10 ROLLS	BOUNTY <b>\$15<sup>99</sup></b> 15 ROLLS	BOUNTY <b>\$8<sup>99</sup></b> 8 ROLLS	JOY <b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b> 90 OZ.
CHARMIN TISSUE <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 12 BIG ROLLS	SUAVE SHAMPOO 2 FOR <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b>	FOAM PLATE <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 125 CT.	FOAM CUP <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b> 51 CT.	LUVS BIG BOX <b>\$18<sup>99</sup></b> SIZE: 3,4,5,6	BOUNTY NAPKIN <b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b> 400 CT.	TRIO <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> 1L.	GAS STOVE <b>\$14<sup>99</sup></b>

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## DUI, sobriety checkpoints this weekend

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI sobriety checkpoints this weekend, Dec. 24 to 26.

### DEC. 24, FRIDAY

■ **First checkpoint:** Chalan Pale Arnold Road 2W Puerto Rico along the Army Reserve Center on the southbound lane.

**Time:** 10pm to 11:15pm.

■ **Second checkpoint:** Beach road Chalan Kanoa in front of the Super Fresh Market, on the northbound lane.

**Time:** 12:30am to 1:45am (early Saturday morning)

■ **Third checkpoint:** Chalan Pale Arnold Road, 2W Chalan Laulau in front of the IT&E building on the southbound lane.

**Time:** 2:45am to 4am (early Saturday morning)

■ **Fourth checkpoint:** Beach Road Susupe in front of the Minatchom Adao pavilion on the southbound lane.

**Time:** 4:30am to 5:45am (early Saturday morning)

### DEC. 25, SATURDAY

■ **First checkpoint:** Beach Road San Jose in front of the Morgan's Building on the northbound lane.

**Time:** 8:30pm to 9:45pm

■ **Second checkpoint:**

Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai in front of the CRM Office Building on the southbound lane.

**Time:** 11pm to 12:15am (early Sunday morning)

■ **Third checkpoint:** Beach

Road Chalan Laulau, across Dr. Kaipat's residence on the southbound lane.

**Time:** 1:30am to 2:45am (early Sunday morning)

■ **Fourth checkpoint:** Chalan Pale Arnold, 2W Gualo Rai north of Pizza Hut, on the northbound lane.

**Time:** 3am to 4:15am (early Sunday morning)

### CONTACT INFO

If you know you can't drive, call the 3D Hotline:

- 989-HELP (4357)
- 989-SAVE (7283)

### DEC. 26, SUNDAY

■ **First checkpoint:** Beach

Road Chalan Laulau, across Dr. Kaipat's residence on the southbound lane.

**Time:** 3pm to 4:15pm

■ **Second checkpoint:** Chalan Pale Arnold, 2W Garapan across the Upper Miha Estate

on the southbound lane.

**Time:** 5:30pm to 6:45pm

■ **Third checkpoint:** Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, 16 Highway Chalan Kiya by the CUC Waterloo on the westbound lane.

**Time:** 8pm to 9:15pm

■ **Fourth checkpoint:** Beach Road Susupe across the Winchell's Donut, on the southbound lane.

**Time:** 10:30pm to 11:45pm

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location.

In addition, police officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

This activity is part of the department's efforts to ensure that all operators abide the law.

If you know you can't drive, call the 3D hotline at 989-HELP (4357) or 989-SAVE (7283). (DPS)

## Flashback

### A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

#### Dec. 23, 1998

#### MVA protests stringent entry rules for Russians

The Marianas Visitors Authority will protest the restriction imposed by the Department of Labor and Immigration on the entry of Russian tourists on the island, said board chairman Dave M. Sablan. Sablan was referring to a memorandum issued by DOLI to all airlines informing them that Russian passport holders must present an authorization to board from the Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares. Earlier, Sablan has proposed to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio a set of guidelines to be followed by the CNMI government in allowing the entry of tourist from mainland China after Zachares suspended indefinitely the issuance of entry permits to citizens of the People's Republic of China.

#### Officials set framework of trade zone bill

The administration is rushing the drafting of a legislation that will set into motion the creation of the first free trade zone in the Northern Marianas, a plan that will attempt to diversify the tourism-based island economy. The proposed measure will contain incentives to be extended to potential investors, the type of business that can be accommodated, as well as the site for the future free trade zone, according to Michael S. Sablan, chairman of the Economic Revitalization Task Force. The draft, which is being prepared by the legal counsels of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and the Legislature, is expected to be submitted to the Free Trade Zone Subcommittee for review when it meets next week.

#### Dec. 23, 2002

#### NMC to develop more degree programs

Northern Marianas College president Kenneth Wright said he has instructed the college's academic programs division to develop more degree programs as part of the goal to adequately respond to the local community's needs. Right now, he said the college has only four associate degree programs. "This number has to increase. I've asked the dean to develop more degree programs," he said. The NMC's academic program is now headed by former NMC president Jack Sablan. Wright pointed out that other community colleges in the U.S. mainland normally have 50-60 degree programs. "I'm not saying we're adding 50 right away. We may not need all those programs, but we'll definitely add more, depending on the local community's needs," he said.

#### DEQ set to review the new tax law

The Division of Environmental Quality said it would review the provisions of the newly passed law on environmental beautification tax to determine whether this would satisfy the financial assurance requirement to permit the operation of the Marpi landfill. DEQ's Brian Bearden, an environmental engineer handling the Solid Waste Permitting Program, said this Friday, following Gov. Juan N. Babauta's signing into law of the environmental beautification tax measure. That law sets up a solid waste revolving fund from tipping fees and other solid waste user's fee, as well as federal grants or loans for solid waste management. It would also impose an ad valorem tax on all consumer goods, except food and medicine.

#### Dec. 23, 2003

#### Food drive set for typhoon victims

House Vice Speaker Manuel Tenorio, who sits as president of the Association of Pacific Islands Legislatures, is encouraging members and staff of the Legislature to participate in the relief effort for Yap, which was hit by Typhoon Lupit several weeks ago. In a memorandum addressed to House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider, Tenorio also asked for volunteers to man several booths that would be put up in major shopping centers this Saturday as part of a food drive being held by the Repagulwosh Society of Saipan. The group, an organization of Yapese residents on the island, earlier held a food drive at the Price CostCo in Oleai for the victims of Typhoon Lupit, which hit the outer islands of Yap in late November.

#### Toskas couple donates \$5K to Rota school

Rota Health Center's Dr. James William Toskas and his wife, Jocelyn, have donated \$5,000 to the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja in honor of Senate President Paul A. Manglona and Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona, whom the couple praised for their dedication to the island's youths. The couple made the donation after a recent discussion with the two officials on the educational opportunities for Rota's youths.

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# New Year Countdown to 2011

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# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Navy Hill and Dandan location will be open on  
Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> from 8am to 4:00pm.

Navy Hill (CHC) location is open on  
Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup> and  
New Year's Day, January 01, 2011 from 8am to 4:00pm.  
Navy Hill (CHC) location open every day of the year.

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Dandan (Joeten Dandan Center) Tel. (670) 235-6170/74  
Puerto Rico (Marina Heights II) Tel. (670) 323-5100 • Fax (670) 323-5111  
Kagman (Joeten Market) Tel. (670) 256-6170/71 • Fax (670) 256-6173 (Opening Soon)

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CHICKEN LEG QUARTER \$14 <sup>99</sup> 22# \$19 <sup>99</sup> 33#	PORK SPARERIBS \$20 <sup>99</sup> 20#	WHOLE CHICKEN \$34 <sup>99</sup> 30#	PORK BABY RIBS \$17 <sup>99</sup>	BEEF BACK RIBS \$25 <sup>99</sup> 20LBS.	GROUND BEEF \$9 <sup>99</sup> 5 LBS. \$16 <sup>99</sup> 10 LBS.	CHOP HAM \$8 <sup>99</sup> 5 LBS. \$16 <sup>99</sup> 10 LBS.	BAR-S HOTDOG \$1 <sup>10</sup>	BAR-S BACON \$2 <sup>99</sup>
LOTUS JASMINE RICE \$24 <sup>99</sup> 50 LBS.	TURKEY TAIL \$18 <sup>99</sup> CASE	CHICKEN WINGS \$12 <sup>99</sup> 5.5 LBS.	PORTUGUESE SAUSAGE \$1 <sup>99</sup>	CHAMORRO SAUSAGE \$4 <sup>99</sup>	VEGA SHRIMP \$4 <sup>99</sup>	GREEN MUSSELS \$4 <sup>99</sup>	TILAPIA 99¢ /LB.	MILK FISH \$1 <sup>39</sup> /LB.

**GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES**

<div>SPAM</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$239</div></div>	<div>BLACK LABEL</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$159</div></div>	<div>OX &amp; PALM</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$259</div></div>	<div>CORNEB BEEF HASH</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$199</div></div>	<div>CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP</div> <div></div> <div><div>99¢</div></div>	<div>LIGO SARDINES</div> <div></div> <div><div>3 FOR \$100</div></div>	<div>LUCKY ME SOBA</div> <div></div> <div><div>4 FOR \$100</div></div>	<div>CERAMIC CUPS AND DISHES</div> <div><div>20% OFF</div></div>	<div>PILLOW COVERS</div> <div><div>2 FOR \$799</div></div>	
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**BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE | BEVERAGE**

HITE BEER \$16 <sup>99</sup> CASE	ASAHI \$20 <sup>99</sup> CASE	RED HORSE BEER \$2 <sup>75</sup> BOTTLE \$14 <sup>99</sup> CASE/6 BOTTLES	BUSCH BEER \$16 <sup>99</sup> CASE	COKE \$13 <sup>99</sup> CASE	KOOL AID JAMMERS \$2 <sup>99</sup> BOX	SEOK SU WATER 500 ML \$5 <sup>99</sup> CASE	CAR ACCESSORIES 20% OFF	
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**PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | MIXED VEGETABLES | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD**

POTATOES 69¢ /LB.	ONION 69¢ /LB.	GARLIC \$1 <sup>99</sup> /NET	ORANGE 89¢ /LB.	MEDIUM EGGS \$1 <sup>49</sup> /DOZ.	CHOPSUEY \$1 <sup>99</sup> /PKG.	SINIGANG \$1 <sup>99</sup> /PKG.	CHARMIN TISSUE BASIC \$7 <sup>99</sup> 12 BIG ROLLS	CHARMIN TISSUE ULTRA STRONG \$7 <sup>99</sup> 24 ROLLS	FOAM PLATE \$7 <sup>99</sup> 125 CT.	LUVS BIG BOX \$19 <sup>99</sup> SIZE: 3,4,5,6	BOUNTY \$15 <sup>99</sup> 15 ROLLS	BOUNTY \$8 <sup>99</sup> 8 ROLLS
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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
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Pacific Islands News Association

## Independent media a rarity in Iraq

By ABEER MOHAMMED  
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

**B**AGHDAD—Journalists are warning that the increasingly partisan nature of the Iraqi press is suppressing fair and impartial media coverage of politics.

They say that as politicians come to understand the power of the media, they have sought to control it, thwarting balanced, professional journalism.

"There is no independent media outlet in Iraq. I cannot name any satellite channel or a newspaper and say, 'This one is independent.' They all either belong to a political or religious party," said Hadi Jalo Marei, chairman of the Journalistic Freedom Observatory, a Baghdad-based media rights organization.

With political disputes often played out in competing partisan media outlets, local reporters and editors say their respective organizations impose strict rules about coverage that are often counter to internationally recognized standards of impartiality.

As most domestic news agencies are linked to or financed by political parties, observers say that a culture exists in which media aligned with a certain group provide positive coverage of their leaders while criticizing opponents.

Some senior journalists and media experts feel the Iraqi press will never meet professional industry standards unless a truly independent media emerges.

Journalists say the problem was particularly acute during this year's election campaign and the months of negotiations that followed.

"Each news organization, except some (international) ones, supports a particular party or politician," said Ali Ramadan, a TV correspondent from the al-Rasheed satellite channel.

"The performance of the local media in Iraq (during and after the March 7 elections) shows that the press is no more than a tool used by Iraqi political parties to get the posts they want," he said.

Some journalists say the current job market and economic conditions dictate the kind of coverage they are able to provide.

"When I get my salary from any man, I will not be able to say he is wrong," said Israa Ali, a local radio reporter in Baghdad.

An Iraqi reporter who refused to provide his name or the name of his organization explained the details of how policy is set at his office.

"Our editor used to force us to do stories against specific political parties," he said.

New York Times reporter Khalid Ali says the politicization of the media stems from politicians' increasing understanding of the influence it can wield.

"(Politicians) care about media now, because they have seen the media's power. They have learned from the previous elections that media is their only way to reach the community, and is their only key to winning people's hearts," Ali said.

And just as in other parts of the world, politicians here have learned to cooperate only with media outlets they know will support them.

"It's as simple as some politicians being nice with their media outlets and rude with others," said Nesreen Ali, a television correspondent who works for the al-Furat, a satellite channel financed by the Shia party the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq. "It can be hard to get the information you need. Members of a particular party, which I would not like to name, refused to talk

See INDEPENDENT on Next Page



## Of lobsters and beans

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



**I**t was 1976 in Vancouver, Canada. The UN's Habitat Conference was held as a result of the Stockholm meeting four years before that recognized the bad effects of urbanization on human settlements. A network of non-government groups held their own gathering a few miles away from the official site. At the time, human settlement was the code word for planned communities but not yet necessarily green.

Government policies were the target of conversation. I was on the staff of the Institute of Cultural Affairs in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, at the time, working with colleagues in Edmonton, Alberta and Winnipeg, Manitoba to further the cause of the human factor in world development, launching a project in a *Métis* (French for "mix blood" between Canadian First Nation natives and European trappers) settlement in Vogar, Manitoba, similar to one we helped launch in Sudtonggan, Mactan Island in the Philippines, and Majuro in the Marshall Islands, as part of a band of intense and comprehensive 24 social demonstration projects, "every hour on the hour," around the globe. That effort would lead to an International Exposition on Rural Development in New Delhi, India in 1984.

(Vogar-raised Canadian movie and TV star Adam Beach played Navajo *Windtalkers* in Micronesia during WWII with Nicolas Cage in the movie version.)

In Habitat 1976, the cleavage between the government and non-government sectors were not yet as deep as when it violently erupted in the Battle of Seattle 1999 v. globalization at the World Trade Organization meeting. The rift was already there, to be sure. The bottom line of trade and commerce as the concern of most governments translates badly in the clamor for democratic participation and social justice in the civil sector. Canadian Maurice Strong, a petroleum entrepreneur from Manitoba, joined Russia's Mikhail Gorbachev in drafting the Earth Charter on sustainable development that was finally adopted by UNESCO Paris in 2000. The Earth Charter proposes that environmental protection, human rights, equitable human development, and peace are interdependent and indivisible. The charter was printed in this paper one Earth Day commemoration back when we used it for our SVES 6th grade retreat.

NPR's recent coverage of the Cancun Conference is where we picked up this reflection's title. Already in Vancouver, the civil society's adjunct Habitat Forum events at Jericho Beach Park were brown bagging it even as prominent figures like Margaret Mead, Buckminster Fuller, Mother Teresa, Maggie and Pierre Trudeau, Barbara Ward, Paolo Soleri, and countless figures in architecture and the arts graced the informal venue. Arthur Erickson's papier-mâché building in the official UN Conference site remains a tourist attraction to this day.

True to the distribution of wealth and power around the world, where 15 percent of the population own, control and manage 85 percent of the world's resources, representatives of the 15 percent

were pouring sauce on their roast meat in five-star hotel dining rooms while the *hoi polloi* were patronizing the hotdog stands at Jericho Beach. At Cancun, the cracking of lobster tails were muted by flatulence from red peppered beans. I ate peanut butter and jelly in Vancouver while waiting to introduce the three-screen multi-slide presentation on the World of Human Development put together by then Chicago-based and presently SF by the Bay audio-visual artist William Marshall Jones.

The Human Development Projects would later get visits and endorsements from the likes of Oprah Winfrey, John Attenborough and Ben Kingsley of the movie *Gandhi*, Werner Erhard of the Hunger Project, and Canuck *Jesus Christ Superstar* movie director Norman Jewison. The ICA dissipated into a thousand lights of local and regional metamorphosed programs, e.g., I ran into a conference facilitator based at Kadena Air Force at a SpEd-funded event on Saipan four years ago who was a member of an ICA-catalyzed group of facilitators. The experiments' learnings, victories, and mistakes have since been surrendered into history and appropriated by other bodies that picked up or discarded where the HDPs left off.

La Via Campesina has emerged as a network of 150 groups primarily representing the peasant and urban poor movements around the world. In the recently concluded Shanghai Expo 2010, the technological advances of the developed nations were displayed as more than half of the world's population now lives in urban centers as opposed to only a third in 1976. By 2050, it is projected that two-thirds will live in cities, but the programs of green, sustainable development lag way behind the rape of natural resources in the pursuit of economic growth as the measure of progress in global development. Already, the reality of Oil Peak (price of gasoline is expected to double in two years) and industrial dependence on fossil fuel, and the effects of radical climate change are putting incredible stress on the planet's sanity that war as the policy for ensuring access to global resource, and paranoia as a consequence of close quarter urban living, have become permanent fixtures in our glocal existence.

Leveling many playing fields is an obvious earthbound enterprise; meanwhile, since we do not have access to the lobster, the Mexican red beans with Tinian red peppers will do me just fine.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# The Ghost of CNMI Yet To Come

**A** *Christmas Carol* is the perennial story by Charles Dickens that shares the redemption of a miserable human being with little hope or caring in his heart for the struggles of others. Ebenezer Scrooge's salvation comes in three phases, as prophesied by the ghost of his partner, Jacob Marley, who has had to suffer for his greed and self-serving life by wandering the Earth weighted down with heavy chains.

The *Ghost of Christmas Past* and *Present* leave Scrooge shaken, but it is not until the *Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come* shows him his eventual fate that he promises to renounce his insensitive, avaricious ways. Scrooge then finds himself safely tucked in his bed in the present day, and leaps out a changed man ready to start a new life.

Many plans and ideas have been shared that could turn things around for the Commonwealth. Some have been considered, but most lie dormant, waiting for something or someone to breathe life into them. In many of my columns, I have tried to be upbeat about the future, but given our extreme circumstances, it might be fitting to imagine where our present course is taking us. It sometimes takes a glimpse into the future to see where the trajectory of our life is headed. What would the CNMI look like and what might we experience if we were shown our future when we finally hit rock bottom? In the spirit of Dickens' tale, here's what the *Ghost of CNMI Yet to Come* might share with us:

Driving down a once busy street, it's apparent that many businesses have left the island because half of them are closed or have graffiti painted on their façade. The Garapan business district is like a ghost town with scattered tourists walking on the sidewalks. Tourism continues to struggle because there are no direct flights from other countries and every visitor has to be routed through Guam. It costs over \$300 for a round-trip ticket between Saipan and Guam. The guests that do visit are shocked by the dilapidated buildings and trash strewn on the beaches and other public areas. The once pristine lagoon is now murky and full of sea vegetation from the pollution that has continued to be spilled.

The businesses that remain are struggling to keep their doors

open. This has caused a continued loss in government revenue, which has led to further wage cuts and initiated a reduction in force that has left many families jobless. Crime is extremely high as people struggle to make a living. Most of the families are dependent on food stamps and other government assistance programs because of the dwindling jobs in the government and private sector.

Many government supported agencies and entities had additional funds cut, and this has caused the loss of many public programs and services. The reduction of revenue and ongoing challenges faced by the community college has resulted in their loss of accreditation. This also caused the loss of federally funded programs, and more people are leaving the Commonwealth to pursue their education.

While a lot of locals have moved to the mainland to find better opportunities, the many children of foreign contract workers born in the Commonwealth have graduated from high school to become a strong voting bloc. This has resulted in the first non-indigenous person to be elected as the governor, and more are gaining control of the House and Senate.

The Retirement Fund prediction of collapse has finally occurred and retirees have had to return to the workforce or depend on their children for support. There are no off-island medical referrals because bills are not paid by the government, and the hospital continues to have a high turnover of doctors and nurses.

CUC's rates have climbed to become one of the highest in the world, even while their service hits an all-time low. Their engines are continually failing, and brownouts and blackouts are a common occurrence with power failures occurring regularly. This has eroded the quality of life, destroyed electronic components, and severely hurt businesses.

Because of the desperate times, politicians have been able to push the marijuana and casino bills through the House and Senate with the promise of bringing additional revenue to the CNMI. This, however, brought more social problems and dubious investors to the island. The casinos did not add significantly to the tourism numbers, but they did encourage more people living here to become addicted to gambling, which has destroyed many families and has caused

**By RIK VILLEGAS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.*



more social ills that have spread throughout the Commonwealth and spurred more corruption, prostitution, drugs, and illegal activities that has turned this once family-friendly oasis into a crime-ridden, financially bankrupt island.

Unfortunately, we've seen many glimpses into this future and some elements are occurring sooner than later. In Dickens' tale of a miserable man who is given a second chance to turn his life around, he encouraged his readers to experience the fullness of life in a selfish world that has stifled their compassion and hope for the future. Just as Scrooge pled to alter his future, we have the potential to alter the future of the CNMI and experience a different world than fate would have us know. But this does not have to be, and it's possible for the *Ghost of CNMI Yet to Come* to give us a second chance. During this season, we have the perfect opportunity to honor Christmas with all our heart, turn from our avaricious and insensitive ways and do what is right and best for the islands and its people.

*"Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father. He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world... and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God Bless Us, Every One!"—Charles Dickens*

## Letters to the Editor

### Another QC?

I recently learned about the qualifying certificate being approved and recommended for the governor's approval from CDA. Here we are, government employees' work hours are being cut from 80 to 64 hours, while a business (Sandy Beach Homes) is given a tax break? To my understanding, the \$28.2 million comes from grants under the U.S. Housing Urban Development, in collaboration with the Northern Mariana Housing Corp., yet we (the CNMI government) is being generous as if we can afford to give tax breaks.

Our QC program is great but the CDA board needs to come up with a realistic scenario of our current situation that our government is currently facing. This reminds me of the LauLau Bay Golf Resort, they were so excited that they were being granted the lease agreement they started the construction phase, and in less than three months, they said they needed to scale down their original proposal from a 12-story building to five only, citing the poor economy, which they knew way before the project was even started.

If the governor is going to approve another QC applicant, then he must also make adjustments for the shortfall of his projected revenue. We are not going forward with this type of generosity. If they must give a tax break, then they should grant up to five years at a

time, do a thorough review and lessen or extend the numbers of years granted, but not a guaranteed upfront of 20 years.

If we have the money to spare, by all means, let's give everybody a break, but the truth of the matter is, the CNMI government is broke. We cannot even pay our employees on time. Their hours are reduced from 80 to 64, the vendors are crying, the buying power of our people is reflected through businesses reporting less than ex-

## A teaching moment

The letter titled "Missing the Point" attacked me for merely wanting a better day for the CNMI. If he wants to continue with his attacks in the news, fine with me. But I know that more people will remember and appreciate me for *what I have done and what I have tried to do to help the CNMI*. He has *never* offered a single solution to help the people as I have tried to do.

The amazing thing is that every time he opens his mouth to attack me, he also opens the doors wide open for a teaching moment. Thanks again for the opportunity. If the author and other people voted for someone else just because I was trying to help Mr. Babauta, I'm sure people with common sense can see that we have a real problem among voters and now we have proof.

He doesn't even realize that the candidates in any election are candidates "of" the people and not the candidate of any individual. Mr. Babauta is my friend but he is not my personal candidate. I was trying to help the *people* of the CNMI first and foremost in this past election. Mr. Babauta just happened to be the one we needed. If the Democrats had been taking over Con-

## Accept him!

This is to appeal to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas' Republican Party and its leadership in accepting Governor Fitial's proposal to rejoin the Republican Party, so that his administration could be endorsed by the national Republican Party here in the United States.

I have known Governor Fitial as a true Republican since the 1960s, and only through disagreements within the party did he formulate the Covenant Party. Now he is proposing to return to the Republican Party where I believe he belongs. He has demonstrated genuine leadership in dealing with changes as needed to alleviate the economic impact and suffering of the people of the CNMI.

Furthermore, his attempt to rejoin the Republican Party demonstrates his dedication to help the CNMI people. Governor Fitial knows that local politics have to be in sync with those in Washing-

ton for the CNMI to receive maximum attention, aid, and assistance.

I am appealing to the Republican Party and the leadership to please accept Governor Fitial's proposition wholeheartedly and without reservation, so that proper attention and assistance can be given to the CNMI and its people. We cannot waste any more time with the political bickerings while the CNMI people are suffering. This is not the time to be pointing fingers and playing the blame game. As leaders, you should lead and pave the way for enhancing the CNMI people's lives and interest.

**Rep. Joseph M. Palacios**

17th CNMI legislature

gress and our Democratic Party was aligned with Democrats in the mainland then voters should be trying to elect the Democrat candidate for the best interest of the CNMI. This is the political game of Washington that I was trying to educate our voters about and it seems we are going to learn the hard way like everything else because voters didn't heed my warnings. This past election is the *only* time I have publicly supported anyone and I chose to speak out on the Delegate race because it was a no-brainer and the perfect experiment to expose the true problem of how we got into this economic mess—its voters because we voted ourselves into this mess!

Those who are only out to be against me just because it is me need to clean their minds and try to help our Commonwealth because we need people to come up with solutions. A very merry Christmas and happy new year to everyone!

**Ambrose M. Bennett**

Kagman, Saipan

## INDEPENDENT

From Page 10

to me or to my outlet at a time they had a disagreement with the party supporting my organization."

Hiba al-Sudani, a correspondent for the state-run Republic of Iraq radio, still holds out hope.

"A journalist is stronger than a politician," al-Sudani said. "If we work in a professional way, we will force officials to obey our rules, and we will no longer have to play by theirs."

*Abeer Mohammed is a reporter in Iraq who writes for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict. Readers may write to the author at the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, 48 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8LT, U.K.; Web site: [www.iwpr.net](http://www.iwpr.net). For information about IWPR's funding, please go to <http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?top=supporters.html>.*

**Nicolas Moreham Nekai**






Hemet, CA



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 63
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 25 ▼ 9
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 64
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 35 ▼ 27
Los Angeles	Thunderstorms	▲ 59 ▼ 49
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 50
Miami	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 54
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 37 ▼ 27
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 43
Paris	Snow	▲ 36 ▼ 33
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 23
Rome	Rain	▲ 63 ▼ 51
Salem	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 41
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 57 ▼ 48
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 33 ▼ 10
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 43
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 40 ▼ 29

Tides				
Saipan Harbor				
2:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
10:01 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
3:23 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	
8:05 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



120 130 140 150 160 170

**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2010**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from 25N173E northeast of Wake Island to 14N151E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 150 miles of the front from 25N173E to 15N160E. Low-level convergence northwest of Koror and Yap is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 60 miles of a line from 16N130E to 12N144E. Convergent southwest flow is producing scattered showers northeast of Majuro within 130 miles of a line from 10N175E to 13N180.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:39 AM	5:53 PM	Today	7:49 PM	8:05 AM
Friday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM	Friday	8:49 PM	8:55 AM
Saturday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM	Saturday	9:48 PM	9:42 AM
Sunday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM	Sunday	10:45 PM	10:27 AM
Monday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM	Monday	11:41 PM	11:10 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM						GUAM-SAIPAN					
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily			C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6			C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6		
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7			C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7			C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7			C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily		
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily			C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily			DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily		
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6			DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7		
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily			DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)						OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN					
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily			OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7			OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1			OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX		
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7			OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX			OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6			FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only			CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN		
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM			DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7		
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM		
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM			OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau			OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM			PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM		
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau			PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM		
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN			C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau		
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7			C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau		
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM		
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM		
						C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM		
						C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG						HONG KONG-SAIPAN					
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN			OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM			OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN			C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM		

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
Airline		ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline		ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota					FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily	
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily		FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily	
Rota-Saipan					FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily	
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily		FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily	
Guam-Rota					FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily	
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily		FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily	
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily		FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily	
Saipan-Rota					Tinian-Saipan				
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily		FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily	
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily		FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily	
Saipan-Rota					FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily	
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily		FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily	
Rota-Guam					FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily	
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily		FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily	
					FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian					FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily	
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily		FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily		FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily		FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily		FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily	
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily		FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily	
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily						



# Saipan tourism partners net 550 lbs of trash

The Japan-Saipan Travel Association, in collaboration with the Marianas Visitors Authority, conducted its annual cleanup drive on Tuesday, Dec. 21, in the Garapan hotel district.

More than 95 members of the JSTA,

Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association, MVA, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Paseo de Marianas Promoters, as well as private volunteers, participated in the cleanup. Beginning at 6:30am, the

energetic participants cleaned streets in the hotel district and Beach Road south to the Carolinian Affairs Office, netting 550 lbs of trash.

"On behalf of the MVA, I wish to thank you and the JSTA members for

your untiring efforts in keeping our island clean and beautiful," MVA managing director Perry Tenorio conveyed to JSTA president Takahashi Masa in a letter.

The MVA provided drinking water and coordinated with the Division of

Parks and Recreation for disposal of the trash and debris collected. The tourism office regularly collaborates with JSTA on cleanups, usually scheduled prior to the start of peak visitor seasons such as the yearend holiday. *(MVA)*

## Tenorio receives national eye care certification

Thelma Tenorio has become the newest technician at Marianas Eye Institute to get her nationally recognized degree as a certified ophthalmic assistant from the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology.

Tenorio joins Emily Taitano and Lin Muleta as the only certified ophthalmic assistants in the CNMI. Marianas Eye Institute has a total of eight nationally recognized certifications, including certified opticians,

certified contact lens fitters and certified ophthalmic coders.

Tenorio, a graduate from Marianas High School, has been employed at Marianas Eye Institute since 2002.

"Dr. Khorram has been encouraging me for years to take this exam, but honestly, I was scared. I thought I just didn't know enough," she said.

When she took the 3 1/2 hour exam, Tenorio said she was surprised at how quickly she was able to complete it. "As I was

taking the test, I realized that the training and experience we receive at Marianas Eye Institute is so thorough. I feel lucky to work with such great people, and with doctors that are such good teachers," she said.

Dr. Mark Robertson, the optometric physician at Marianas Eye Institute, held evening review sessions to help staff prepare

for the exam.

The exam for the Certified Ophthalmic Assistant covers 19 knowledge areas, including such diverse topics as history taking, equipment maintenance and repair, microbiology, pharmacology, surgical assisting, ophthalmic imaging, patient education, spectacle skills, refractometry, lensometry, visual assessment and medical ethics, legal and regulatory issues.



Tenorio

"We are so well-trained at Marianas Eye Institute," said Tenorio. "I think I realized this a year ago when we went to a conference in Hawaii that drew eye care technicians from around the country. I saw that our staff had a broader knowledge than most of the other technicians there. It was empowering to see that."

"Our mission as an eye clinic is quite simple," explained Dr. David Khorram, the founder of Marianas Eye Institute. "Excellence with Love." That's our mission. It guides what we

strive to accomplish in the care we provide our patients."

"We're very proud of Thelma, as we are of all our staff," said Dr. Khorram. "These certifications are a great achievement for them, and in addition to the sense of accomplishment, along with each level of certification comes a nice raise."

Marianas Eye Institute has three other staff that are now preparing for the COA, and all the current COA's are preparing for the more advanced "Certified Ophthalmic Technician." *(PR)*



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ROOF TIN (COMMERCIAL TYPE BLUE)	3x18
ROOF TIN (COMMERCIAL TYPE BLUE)	3x20
ROOF TIN (COMMERCIAL TYPE BLUE)	3x22
ROOF TIN (COMMERCIAL TYPE BLUE)	3x24

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# PSS inaugurates six new buildings on Capital Hill

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Christmas came early for the Public School System when it formally opened yesterday new buildings for some special programs and offices.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, along with Board of Education members and officials, led the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Capital Hill for six newly renovated facilities for the Junior Reserve Officer Training Course, Head Start and Special Education programs, Pupil Transportation Office, Capital Improvement

Projects Office, and the Media and Print Production Office.

Sablan said the system's acquisition of these buildings is a testament to the strong collaboration between PSS, Board of Education and the Executive Branch, which dedicated the buildings for PSS' use.

Sablan said that Christmas actually began much earlier for PSS, back in 2008 when many great things started to happen for the CNMI's education system, starting with the election of the CNMI's first delegate to Congress, Gregorio Kilili Sablan, one of the special guests in yesterday's event.

"Since then, we have had a voice in Congress fighting for us to give not only federal funds but technical assistance for all our students' needs," she said.

Christmas again came early for PSS on Feb. 24, 2009, she said, when President Obama signed into law the American Recovery Reinvestment Act, which included the Commonwealth in the state fiscal stabilization fund.

"That was a true blessing for PSS...the beginning of many improvements in terms of infrastructure and added support to carry out our vision for students," said Sablan, adding

that over \$40 million in federal monies have been given to PSS from the ARRA funds.

"Today, we witness the strong collaboration with the Executive Branch, education board, and other agencies as we receive these additional buildings for our...kids," she said.

Besides the building dedication ceremony, the board and PSS officials also honored Master Sergeant Juan Salas, who served as dean of the JROTC program in the CNMI. A plaque of appreciation was presented to the retired official, who was accompanied by wife, Flower Pot Salas, and family members.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Board members and education officials, led by Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, second from right, cut the ribbon for the new buildings dedicated to PSS special programs and offices during a ceremony yesterday on Capital Hill. Also in photo is CNMI Delegate Gregorio Sablan, third from right, who was among the event's special guests.

## Lawmakers do the cha-cha with the man'amko

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Congregates at the Aging Center saw a different image of their lawmakers yesterday morning, with congressmen and senators spending time with the *man'amko* singing rock-and-roll and dancing the cha-cha.

It was the first time lawmakers actually paid a visit to the center and brought the holiday spirit to the *man'amko*, according to Rep. Joseph M. Palacios (R-Saipan).

"I thought about doing this activity because we wanted to do something for the *man'amko*. We want the elders to know that we remember them despite hard times," said the former Aging director.

Palacios told reporters that 16 congressmen and two senators took part in the activity.

He said each lawmaker contributed about \$80 from their discretionary funds to let the

senior citizens enjoy the Christmas season and, at the same time, have fun themselves.

"I'm glad to see that my colleagues were also happy with our visit," said Palacios.

Other representatives that joined the merriment at the center were vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro, Ray Yumul, Rafael Demapan, Raymond Palacios, Diego Benavente, Joseph Deleon Guerrero, George Camacho, Eliceo Cabrera, Ramon Basa, and Antonio Sablan.

Sen. Pete Reyes and Saipan Mayor Donald Flores were also there.

The lawmakers also gave each *man'amko* holiday mugs containing stuffed toys.

Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan) said being with the senior citizens brought back memories of his mother who passed away years ago.

"It feels good to see the *man'amko* enjoy themselves. It's also a way to teach younger



generations to take care of their elders, especially this Christmas," he said.

Vice speaker Ogumoro told the *man'amko* that despite coming from different parties and having different views, they can come together and share fun with the senior citizens.

"I hope it won't be the last

time that we will visit. We'll try to spend time again with all of you next year," she said.

Saipan Seniors Advisory Council chair Teresita Sorroza expressed appreciation for the lawmakers' efforts to make their Christmas a happy one in a time of grief. Sorroza said they lost three colleagues in a

span of one week: Felix Flawau, Sharry Kifiko, and Fortunato Rejano.

"Whether we are happy or sad, whether we have money or not, let's all still be thankful for all our blessings. We thank the legislators who think about us. We will include you in our prayers," she added.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Lawmakers pose with the congregates of the Aging Center after sharing a fun-filled Christmas program with the island's senior citizens yesterday. Lawmakers made a contribution to provide a Christmas luncheon and souvenir for the *man'amko*.



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy Number: 11-004 Opening Date: December 23, 2010  
Closing Date: January 7, 2010

### Communications Operator

**DUTIES:** Under the overall supervision of the Communications Manager or designee. Monitors radio communications in order to dispatch crews for troubleshooting. Answers incoming calls reporting complaints on water, sewer or power problems. Maintains file systems. Prepares overtime requests for troubleshooters. Performs data entry; logs in customer complaints. Follows up with customers in order to verify customer's experience. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

**LOCATION:** Administration, SAIPAN.

**SALARY:** \$11,036 to \$13,631 per annum.

**POSITIONS:** One (1)

**CONTRACT:** Two-years.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** High School Diploma, or G.E.D., plus zero to three years of related experience required. Knowledge of: Customer service techniques; Telephone etiquette; Radios. Skill in: Providing customer service; Using two-way radios; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy Number: 11-005 Opening Date: December 23, 2010  
Closing Date: January 7, 2010

### Accounting Assistant

**DUTIES:** Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. Performs a wide variety of routine fiscal support activities to include: receiving and processing payments; issuing receipts; preparing daily deposit slips; opening new accounts; closing credit cards; verifying and processing payroll; running automatic credit card payments; posting invoices; preparing checks; preparing refunds; and, preparing charge vouchers. Generates and distributes routine reports. Maintains filing systems. Performs customer service activities to include assisting customers with applications, payments and in settling disputes. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

**LOCATION:** Chief Financial Officer Division, SAIPAN.

**SALARY:** \$11,036 to \$12,263 per annum.

**POSITIONS:** One (1)

**CONTRACT:** Two-years.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** High School Diploma, or G.E.D., plus zero to three years related customer service or bookkeeping experience. Knowledge of: Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Cash handling and bank deposit procedures. Skill in: Providing customer service; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy Number: 11-006 Opening Date: December 23, 2010  
Closing Date: January 7, 2010

### Accounting Technician

**DUTIES:** Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. May help supervise or supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs a wide variety of routine to moderate level fiscal support activities to include: verifying daily transactions processed by others; editing and posting daily transactions; preparing change fund at bank; preparing certification of completion of services; entering NSF checks; preparing billing cycles; reviewing tampered accounts; and, preparing billing adjustments. Generates, reviews and distributes reports. Maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to customer complaints. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

**LOCATION:** Chief Financial Officer Division, SAIPAN.

**SALARY:** \$15,139 to \$16,155 per annum.

**POSITIONS:** Two (2)

**CONTRACT:** Two-years.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** EITHER High School Diploma (or G.E.D.) and four years of bookkeeping or related fiscal support experience OR an Associate's degree in a related field. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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# Business

## Census shows slowing US growth, brings GOP gains

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Divided FCC adopts rules to protect Web traffic

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Federal regulators adopted new rules Tuesday to keep the companies that control the Internet's pipelines from restricting what their customers do online or blocking competing services, including online calling applications and Web video. The vote by the Federal Communications Commission was 3-2 and quickly came under attack from the commission's two Republicans, who said the rules would discourage investments in broadband. Prominent Republicans in Congress vowed to work to overturn them.

#### China State Grid buys Brazil power assets for \$1B

**SHANGHAI** (AP)—China's biggest electricity provider, State Grid, says it has invested \$989 million to acquire seven Brazilian power companies and their transmission facilities. A notice by State Grid on the website of the government agency that manages state assets says the investment includes a 30-year concession to operate the Brazilian power grids that can be renewed in 20-year contracts once it expires. The deal marks a further expansion of State Grid into overseas markets following a similar investment in the Philippines.

#### Japan exports post better growth in November

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japan's export growth accelerated for the first time in nine months in November, a possible sign that global demand is improving again. Exports from the world's third-largest economy rose 9.1 percent from a year earlier, the government said Wednesday. While exports have expanded throughout the year, the rate of growth has steadily fallen as overseas demand cooled, triggering worries about Japan's export-driven economy. In February, exports jumped more than 45 percent.

#### NY AG sues Ernst & Young in Lehman probe

**NEW YORK** (AP)—New York's attorney general is suing accounting giant Ernst & Young, accusing it of helping defunct investment bank Lehman Brothers hide billions of dollars in debt from investors even as it teetered on the brink of financial collapse. The civil lawsuit, filed by Attorney General Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday, days before he's due to be sworn in as the state's governor, marks the first government legal action stemming from the collapse of Lehman Brothers, one of the first milestones of Wall Street's 2008 meltdown.

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Republican-leaning states will gain at least a half dozen House seats thanks to the 2010 census, which found the nation's population growing more slowly than in past decades but still shifting to the South and West.

The Census Bureau announced Tuesday that the nation's population on April 1 was 308,745,538, up from 281.4 million a decade ago. The growth rate for the past decade was 9.7 percent, the lowest since the Great Depression. The nation's population grew by 13.2 percent from 1990 to 2000.

Michigan was the only state to lose population during the past decade. Nevada, with a 35 percent increase, was the fastest-growing state.

est-growing state.

The new numbers are a boon for Republicans, with Texas leading the way among GOP-leaning states that will gain House seats, mostly at the Rust Belt's expense. Following each once-a-decade census, the nation must reapportion the House's 435 districts to make them roughly equal in population, with each state getting at least one seat.

That triggers an often contentious and partisan process in many states, which will draw new congressional district lines that can help or hurt either party.

In all, the census figures show a shift affecting 18 states taking effect when the 113th Congress takes office in 2013.

## Stopgap spending measure clears Congress

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Congress cleared a stopgap funding bill Tuesday to keep the federal government open into March, a temporary truce until Republicans and President Barack Obama rejoin the battle over the budget next year.

The bill was passed by the House in the evening just hours after speeding through the Senate. Obama was poised to sign it by midnight to avoid a government shutdown.

The measure would freeze agency budgets at current levels. That's still too high for Republicans set to take over the House, who vow to cut many programs to levels in place when Obama took office. That will be difficult to achieve, even though Republicans will control

the House and possess greater strength in the senate.

The bill would also create hardship at the Pentagon and the Homeland Security Department, which will be denied funding increases until their budgets pass next year.

The measure is needed because the Democratic-controlled Congress—in an unprecedented failure to complete its most basic job on passing a budget—has failed to enact a single one of the 12 annual spending bills that fund the day-to-day operations of every federal agency.

The House cleared the bill for Obama on a 193-165 vote after a 79-16 vote in the Senate.

Republicans promise to try next year to cut most domestic agency budgets back to pre-Obama lev-

Texas will gain four new House seats, and Florida will gain two. Gaining one each are Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah and Washington. Ohio and New York will lose two House seats each. Losing one House seat are Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Florida will now have as many U.S. House members as New York: 27. California will still have 53 seats, and Texas will climb to 36. In 2008, President Barack Obama lost in Texas and most of the other states that are gaining House seats. He carried most of the states that are losing House seats, includ-

ing Ohio and New York.

Each House district represents an electoral vote in the presidential election process, meaning the political map for the 2012 election will tilt somewhat more Republican.



If Obama were to carry the same states he won in 2008, they would net him six fewer electoral votes under the new map. Some states Obama won, such as Florida, tilted Republican in last month's election and the electoral votes they will gain could further help GOP candidates in 2012.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said he did not expect the census results to have a "huge practical impact" on national politics.

els. Such cuts would exceed 20 percent for some agencies.

Republicans say such cuts would produce savings of \$100 billion compared to Obama's February budget request. But

with the government operating at current levels for almost half of the fiscal year, the actual savings that Republicans might be able to accomplish are likely to be considerably smaller.


**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**


**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Job Vacancy Number: 11-007      Opening Date: December 23, 2010  
Closing Date: January 7, 2010

### Accounting Specialist

**DUTIES:** Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional accounting support activities to include: verifying fund balances and obligating expenditures; reviewing open accounts and contracts; editing, posting delinquency notices and disconnection lists; preparing service orders for termination of accounts; processing travel documents; maintaining subsidiary ledgers; and, processing and filing payroll documents. Generates, reviews, analyzes, edits and distributes a wide variety of reports. Establishes and maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to complex customer complaints. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

**LOCATION:** Chief Financial Officer Division, SAIPAN.



**SALARY:** \$21,612 TO \$22,920 per annum.

**POSITIONS:** Four (4)

**CONTRACT:** Two-years.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Associate Degree in Accounting and one to four years of progressively responsible experience related to the area of assignment. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic budgeting principles; Basic accounting principles; Billing procedures; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Preparing reports; Reconciling accounts and ledgers; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer  
Post Office Box 501220, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950-1220 U.S.A.  
Telephone (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5133


**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**


**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Job Vacancy Number: 11-008      Opening Date: December 23, 2010  
Closing Date: January 7, 2010

### Accountant

**DUTIES:** Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. May supervise accounting support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Maintains, monitors, and balances assigned funds. Performs professional accounting responsibilities, which includes: preparing general journal entries; ensuring proper departmental approvals; auditing accounts; assisting with annual audits; and, performing other related activities. Researches information on accounts for customers, internal departments, and other interested parties. Prepares, reviews, and submits a variety of reports, reconciliations, and statements to and from internal departments, financial institutions, and/or Local, State, and Federal agencies. Performs month-end and year-end closing of books of accounts for assigned funds. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

**LOCATION:** Chief Financial Officer Division, SAIPAN.

**SALARY:** \$35,884 TO \$41,794 per annum.

**POSITIONS:** Three (3).

**CONTRACT:** Two-years.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelors Degree in Accounting, Finance or a related field, plus one to three years of professional level accounting or finance. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Basic mathematics; Fixed asset accounting. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Operating a 10-key machine; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP11-DOF/REV-019

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 24, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.



#### “TECHNICAL TAX CONSULTING SERVICES FOR DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION OFFICE”

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWERBASE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.** AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION OFFICE IN THE JOETEN DANDAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ ASUNCION S. AGULTO      /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE      DIRECTOR, P&S


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP11-DPW-002

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, January 17, 2010 • TIME: 10:30am

#### “INDUSTRIAL HORIZONTAL GRINDER, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN”

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD LOCATED IN OFFICE #315 ON THE THIRD (3RD) FLOOR OF THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA BETWEEN 8AM AND 5PM.

THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA) PROJECT AND AS SUCH ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA      /s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN      /s/ HERMAN SABLAN  
CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD      SECRETARY OF DPW      DIRECTOR, P&S



# Nation

## As evacuations ordered, Calif braces for more rain

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—If six days of pounding rain wasn't enough to dampen holiday spirits, a seventh could prove to be downright dangerous.

Forecasters expected heavy rains across California going into Wednesday, and authorities began evacuations late Tuesday as concern grew about potential mudslides in the wildfire-scarred foothills across the southern part of the state.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency Tuesday for Kern, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo and Tulare counties because of the extreme weather conditions.

Officials ordered evacuation of 232 homes in La Canada Flintridge and La Crescenta, foothill suburbs of Los Angeles, because of forecasts of more heavy rains on already saturated

mountainsides.

San Diego police evacuated dozens of homes and businesses but no structural damage was reported in the city, said Lt. Andra Brown. A commuter rail station was closed in the city's Sorrento Valley area due to heavy rains. About a dozen homes were evacuated in a cul-de-sac south of downtown.

A mudslide closed one street in the La Jolla area of San Diego.

Farther inland in Riverside, a surge of water swept through a homeless camp near the banks of the Santa Ana River.

Rebecca Truver, 45, was holed up in her tent when her dog and her cat started acting strangely.

"They knew something was happening," Truver said of her dog and cat. "Then all of a sudden the water came through up

to my knees."

Three people suffered minor injuries and about 50 lost all their belongings in the flood, Ruth Record, with Come as You Are Homeless Ministries, told the Riverside Press Enterprise.

Other inconveniences have so far been relatively minor: Rescuers had to pluck some stranded motorists from rain-swollen creeks. Shoppers dodged puddles while buying last-minute Christmas gifts. Disney resorts canceled a plan to shower visitors with artificial snow.

"We'll keep our fingers crossed, but the more rain that comes, the possibility of mudslides is definitely real," said Jim Amormino, spokesman for the Orange County sheriff's office, which has rescued nine people from the flooding in the past 24 hours.

"We've been lucky so far, but

I'm not sure how much longer the luck will hold out," he said.

For all the perils of the torrential rains, there was a silver lining: The water is expected to help ease the effects of years of drought. Thursday is expected to be dry, with sunshine. There will be light rain on Christmas Day in parts of California.

The immediate concern, however, was the impact of the expected downpours, particularly in areas where wildfires

stripped hillsides of the vegetation that keeps soil in place and burns up dead leaves and other debris that act like a sponge.

Downtown Los Angeles received one-third of its annual average rainfall in less than a week. As of midmorning Tuesday, the rain gauge at the University of Southern California campus recorded 5.77 inches. Forecasters said another 2 inches was expected there through Wednesday.

Up to two inches of rain per hour was expected in areas primed for a major mudslide by last year's wildfire in suburbs just north of the city.

The storm was expected to drop a total of 10 1/2 to 15 1/2 feet of snow at Mammoth Mountain, about five hours northeast of Los Angeles in the Eastern Sierras, capping off what's already made record books as the December ever at the ski resort.

## APNewsBreak: Nearly 1 in 4 fails military exam

**MIAMI (AP)**—Nearly one-fourth of the students who try to join the U.S. Army fail its entrance exam, painting a grim picture of an education system that produces graduates who can't answer basic math, science and reading questions, according to a new study released Tuesday.

The report by The Education Trust bolsters a growing worry among military and education leaders that the pool of young people qualified for military service will grow too small.

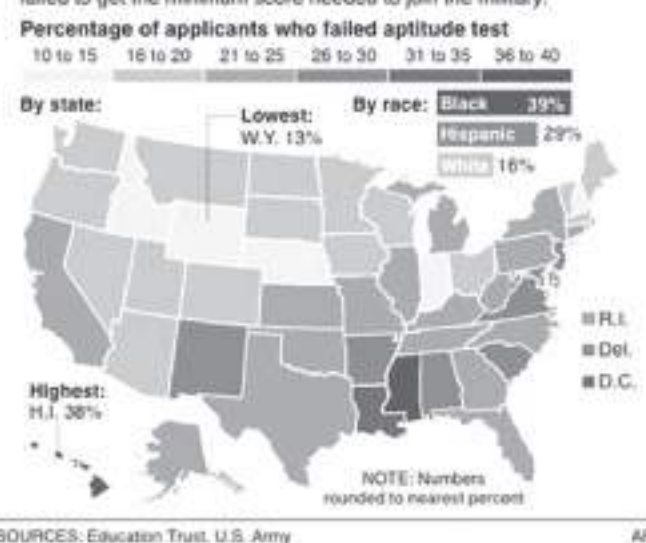
"Too many of our high school students are not graduating ready to begin college or a career—and many are not eligible to serve in our armed forces," U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan told the AP. "I am deeply troubled by the national security burden created by America's underperforming education system."

The effect of the low eligibility rate might not be noticeable now—the Department of Defense says it is meeting its recruitment goals—but that could change as the economy improves, said retired Navy Rear Admiral Jamie Barnett.

"If you can't get the people that you need, there's a potential for a decline in your readiness," said Barnett, who is part of the group Mission: Readiness, a coalition of retired military leaders working to bring awareness to the high ineligibility rates.

### Many failing military aptitude test

Between 2004 and 2009, nearly 23 percent of 17 to 20-year-olds failed to get the minimum score needed to join the military.



The report by The Education Trust found that 23 percent of recent high school graduates don't get the minimum score needed on the enlistment test to join any branch of the military. Questions are often basic, such as: "If 2 plus x equals 4, what is the value of x?"

The military exam results are also worrisome because the test is given to a limited pool of people: Pentagon data shows that 75 percent of those aged 17 to 24 don't even qualify to take the test because they are physically unfit, have a criminal record or didn't graduate high school.

Educators expressed dismay that so many high school grad-

uates are unable to pass a test of basic skills.

"It's surprising and shocking that we are still having students who are walking across the stage who really don't deserve to be and haven't earned that right," said Tim Callahan with the Professional Association of Georgia Educators, a group that represents more than 80,000 educators.

Kenneth Jackson, 19, of Miami, enlisted in the Army after graduating from high school. He said passing the entrance exam is easy for those who paid attention in school, but blamed the education system for why more recruits aren't able to pass the test.



People attempt to pull a truck out of the rain-swollen Santiago Creek near Modjeska Canyon, Calif. on Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2010.

## Obama secures GOP votes for US-Russia nuclear pact

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Barack Obama locked up enough Senate Republican votes Tuesday to ratify a new arms control treaty with Russia that would cap nuclear warheads for both former Cold War foes and restart on-site weapons inspections.

Eleven Republicans joined Democrats in a 67-28 proxy vote to wind up the debate and hold a final tally on Wednesday. They broke ranks with the Senate's top two Republicans and were poised to give Obama a win on his top foreign policy priority.

"We know when we've been beaten," Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah told reporters hours before the vote.

Ratification requires two-thirds of those voting in the Senate and Democrats need at least nine Republicans to overcome the opposition of Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Jon Kyl of Arizona, the party's point man

on the pact.

The Obama administration has made arms control negotiations the centerpiece of resetting its relationship with Russia, and the treaty was critical to any rapprochement.

Momentum for the accord accelerated earlier in the day Tuesday—the seventh day of debate—when Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, the No. 3 Republican in the Senate, announced his support.

The treaty will leave the United States "with enough nuclear warheads to blow any attacker to kingdom come," Alexander said on the Senate floor, adding, "I'm convinced that Americans are safer and more secure with the New START treaty than without it."

Four other Republican senators—Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Johnny Isakson of Georgia, Bob Corker of Tennessee and Robert Bennett of Utah—said they would back the pact.

"We are on the brink of writ-

ing the next chapter in the 40-year history of wrestling with the threat of nuclear weapons," Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, D-Mass., said after the vote.

Obama has insisted the treaty is a national security imperative that will improve cooperation with Russia, an argument loudly echoed by the nation's military and foreign policy leaders, former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton and six Republican secretaries of state.

In a fresh appeal for ratification, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Tuesday that the treaty would "strengthen our leadership role in stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and provide the necessary flexibility to structure our strategic nuclear forces to best meet national security interests."

Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton made a rare visit to the Capitol Tuesday to lobby lawmakers.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### 6 ordered to stand trial in homecoming gang rape

**MARTINEZ, Calif.** (AP)—A judge ordered six defendants Tuesday to stand trial on felony charges in the gang-rape of a teenage girl outside a Northern California high school homecoming dance. Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge Gregory Caskey dismissed charges against a seventh and youngest defendant, a 16-year-old San Pablo boy, saying there was insufficient evidence. The Contra Costa Times reports the judge reduced charges against Elvis Torrentes, 23, who now faces up to eight years in prison if convicted.

#### Nurse to attend signing of 'don't ask' repeal

**SEATTLE (AP)**—A Washington state flight nurse who sued to win reinstatement to the Air Force is planning to be there when President

Obama signs a repeal of "don't ask, don't tell." The Washington state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, which represents Maj. Margaret Witt of Spokane, says she flew to Washington, D.C., on Tuesday and will attend the ceremony Wednesday. Witt says she's excited to be there for all of the people who can't attend.

#### Pedophilia guide author denies book is obscene

**BARTOW, Fla.** (AP)—A Colorado man who wrote a how-to guide for pedophiles said Tuesday that his book is not obscene. Phillip Greaves, 47, of Pueblo, Colo., arrived at the Polk County jail in central Florida on Tuesday morning and is due in court Wednesday afternoon, officials said. He was arrested Monday in Colorado and charged with violating Florida's obscenity law, a third-degree felony. If convicted, he faces a maximum of five years in state prison.



World

UK offers troops, EU seeks answers for snow chaos

**LONDON (AP)**—The snow was melting off London’s streets, but Heathrow Airport told infuriated passengers it won’t restore full service until Thursday—five days after a five-inch snowfall turned hundreds of thousands of holiday plans into a nightmare of canceled flights and painful nights sleeping on terminal floors.

Travelers’ anger boiled over into politics as Britain’s prime minister offered to put troops on snow-clearing duty and Europe’s top transport official threatened tougher regulation of airports unable to cope with wintry weather.

“It’s pathetic—you would think this is a Third World country,” said 29-year-old Janice Phillips, who was trying to get back to Minneapolis. She sat next to her sleeping boyfriend, his head propped against a backpack, his mouth ajar. “All they’ve been talking about was this snow forecast. You would think the government could do a better job.”

“It’s not even snowing!” said 19-year-old Candie Sparks, who was trying to get back to Santa Fe, New Mexico. “It’s crazy.”

Days after a driving snowfall that ended Saturday after dumping five inches in an hour, the terminals at Heathrow were clogged Tuesday with passengers desperately looking at computer screens to see if they would be able to get to their destinations. So many people were sprawled on the floor that it was difficult to walk.

Some wore Santa hats decorated with vulgar signs making fun of their most un-merry Christmas.

Transportation experts said that after many years without heavy snowfall, underinvestment has left Heathrow and dozens of other airports across Britain and Ireland without enough equipment or personnel to cope with big storms.

“They have concluded they don’t need snow clearance equipment, so we don’t have the capability when bad weather comes in,” aviation consultant Chris Yates said.

He said airport operators in Helsinki, Stockholm and other snowy climes have the equipment and manpower to clear runways within 30 minutes and to remove ice and snow from aircraft stands quickly, while Heathrow lags far behind.

This was evident in the days after Saturday’s snowstorm, when airports in Frankfurt, Prague, Amsterdam and other major cities in mainland Europe bounced back more quickly than Heathrow, where the ice quickly hardened, making removal more difficult.

London’s Gatwick was hit by less snow and recovered faster than the larger Heathrow. Its runway reopened and flights were operating Tuesday night.

European Union transportation commissioner Siim Kallas threatened tougher regulation if performance does not improve. “Better preparedness, in line with what is done in Northern Europe is not an optional extra, it must be planned for and with the necessary investment,” he said.

SKorean Christmas tree sign of new propaganda war

**GIMPO, South Korea (AP)**—As troops stood guard and a choir sang carols Tuesday, South Koreans lit a massive steel Christmas tree that overlooks the world’s most heavily armed border and is within sight of atheist North Korea.

The lighting of the tree after a seven-year hiatus marked a pointed return to a tradition condemned in Pyongyang as propaganda. The provocative ceremony—which needed government permission—was also a sign that President Lee Myung-bak’s administration is serious about countering the North’s aggression with measures of its own in the wake of an artillery attack that killed four South Koreans last month.

While the North has made some conciliatory gestures in recent days—indicating to a visiting U.S. governor that it might allow international inspections of its nuclear programs—Seoul appears unmoved.

Pyongyang has used a combination of aggression and reconciliation before to extract concessions from the international community, and the resurrection of the tree lighting at Aegibong is a signal that the South is ready to play hardball until it sees real change from the North.

Earlier, a South Korean destroyer prowled the sea and fighter jets tore across the skies in preparation for possible North Korean attacks a day after Seoul held a round of artillery drills from a front-line island.

After warning of deadly retaliation, North Korea said it would not deign to fight back, and indicated to visiting New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson that it was prepared to consider ways to work with the South on restoring security along the tense border.

Richardson praised Pyongyang on Tuesday for refraining from retaliation and said his visit to the North provided an opening for a resumption of negotiations aimed at dismantling North Korea’s nuclear program. North Korea pulled out of six-nation talks to provide Pyongyang with aid in exchange for disarmament in April 2009, but since has said it is willing to resume them.

The White House, however, rejected the idea, saying Pyongyang needed to change its “belligerent” behavior first and was not “even remotely ready” for negotiations. Press secretary Robert Gibbs said Tuesday there were no plans to debrief Richardson after his trip. What Washington wants from the North, he said, is conciliatory deeds, not words.

“Six-party talks will be restarted again when the North Koreans display a willingness to change behavior. We’re not going to get a table in a room and have six-party talks just for the feel-good notion of having six-party talks,” he said.

In Seoul, a senior South Korean government official said the military would remain prepared for the possibility of a “surprise” attack in coming days. He spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Stark challenges ahead for Iraq’s new government

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—Iraq seated a freely elected government Tuesday after nine months of haggling, bringing together the main ethnic and religious groups in a fragile balance that could make it difficult to rebuild a nation devastated by war as American troops prepare for their final withdrawal.

One of the government’s first priorities will be to decide whether to ask the Obama administration to keep thousands of U.S. soldiers in Iraq after their scheduled departure in December 2011.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s new government solidifies the grip that Shiites have held on political power since Saddam Hussein’s ouster. It leaves open the question of whether the country’s disgruntled Sunni minority will play a meaningful role.

Despite tortuous negotiations that threatened to unravel the country’s tenuous democratic gains, the public face of the new government will look remarkably like the outgoing one. The prime minister, president and foreign minister will remain the same. The outcome was a huge victory for al-Maliki, who has made more than his share of enemies as prime minister since May 2006. Parliament originally tapped al-Maliki as a compromise candidate to lead Iraq following tumultuous elections in December 2005 during the height of the war.

The new government was sworn in Tuesday immediately after the Iraqi parliament voted to approve 34 Cabinet ministers including al-Maliki. The remainder of the 44-member Cabinet is made up of acting ministers who will be replaced at a later date because of ongoing disputes among coalition partners. President Barack Obama praised Iraq for building an inclusive coalition that he described as “a clear rejection of the efforts by extremists to spur sectarian division.”

Al-Maliki hailed what he called a unified but diverse government, the creation of which was “the most difficult task in the world.”

WORLD BRIEFS

Vatican clarifies pope’s condom comments

**VATICAN CITY (AP)**—The Vatican on Tuesday sought to clarify the pope’s controversial comments about condoms and HIV, saying he by no means suggested condom use could be condoned as a means of avoiding pregnancy. The Vatican’s moral watchdog, the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, issued a statement Tuesday saying some commentators had misunderstood and misrepresented the pope’s remarks in a book-length interview released last month entitled “Light of the World.” The Vatican has been under pressure from conservative theologians to issue such a clarification amid widespread confusion about what Pope Benedict XVI meant and whether he was breaking with church teaching.

Strong earthquake hits off southern Japan

**TOKYO (AP)**—A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.4 struck in the Pacific Ocean in the early hours of Wednesday, triggering a brief tsunami warning off the southern coast of Japan. Japan’s

Meteorological Agency said the quake occurred about 80 miles (130 kilometers) off the southern coast of Chichi Island in the Pacific Ocean. The offshore quake struck at around 2:20 a.m. (1720 GMT Tuesday) at a depth of 6 miles (10 kilometers). The U.S. Geological Survey also put the quake’s magnitude at 7.4.

Filipino gunmen free 2 Malaysians after 10 months

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Filipino gunmen with ties to al-Qaida-linked militants have freed two Malaysian laborers from 10 months of jungle captivity, police said Wednesday. The hostages were seized Feb. 8 from a seaweed farm in Malaysia’s Sabah state and whisked away in a speedboat to nearby Philippine waters in a pattern similar to past kidnappings-for-ransom blamed on the notorious terrorist group Abu Sayyaf. Police commandos, who have been searching for the captives, recovered the two near Bongao town in the southernmost island province of Tawi-Tawi late Tuesday, national police chief Raul Balcalzo told reporters.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, January 06, 2011 at 2:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. Adoption of Minutes

5. Communications

6. Public Comments

B. Reports

1. Chairperson

2. Secretary

3. Treasurer

4. Administrator

5. Committees

6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Hearing (6:00 pm)

1. A request for a Conditional Use Permit to allow the construction of institutionalized housing within the new Maturana House of Prayer. Requested by the Mercederian Missionaries of Berriz. This property is described as Tract 2000 in the Navy Hill area. This site is located along Manamko Place and zoned as “Rural”.

D. Old Business.

1. Update on Zoning Office Operations.

2. Update on Zoning Law / Text Amendments (comments).

E. New Business.

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Maturana House Of Prayer

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application. The Mercederian Missionaries of Berriz is requesting to construct institutionalized housing within the new Maturana House of Prayer. This property is described as Tract 2000 in the Navy Hill area. This site is located along Manamko Place and zoned as “Rural”.

Date: January 06, 2011 (Thursday)

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, January 05, 2011. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman



# Environment

## Top five items to recycle this holiday

By TERRI BENNETT  
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Once Santa's sleigh has left the neighborhood and the gifts have all been opened, there are a few important items you'll want to make sure you get rid of the right way. Do Your Part and recycle these five items that the holidays are sure to leave behind.

### 1. LIVE CHRISTMAS TREES

Christmas trees are naturally biodegradable and beneficial for the environment outside our homes. If you purchased a tree with roots, plant it in your backyard or donate it to a local school, park or cemetery for planting. For trees without roots, search Earth911.com for "Christmas Tree" to check for recyclers in your area. Other-

wise, if you have a large backyard, let the tree decompose naturally in an out of the way location while it continues to provide a natural habitat for birds.

### 2. USED ELECTRONICS

Chances are some of those new holiday gifts will be replacing older model electronics. Instead of letting them collect dust, Do Your Part and recycle or donate them. Many online trade-in web-



Chances are some of those new holiday gifts will be replacing older model electronics. Instead of letting them collect dust, "Do Your Part" and recycle or donate them.

sites can help you with this task, and may even pay you for the working ones. If you'd rather skip the hassle of shipping and

handling, bring used electronics to a local Goodwill collection center where the electronics will be refurbished or recycled.

### 3. PACKAGING MATERIALS

Cardboard gift boxes, shipping boxes, and other packaging material can be added recycled along with other paper recyclables. If the gift box is still in usable condition, save it to reuse again next year. Packaging materials like Styrofoam peanuts are not recyclable but can be taken back to shipping stores where it can be reused.

### 4. HOLIDAY LIGHTS

If your incandescent holiday lights no longer work be sure to recycle them. Large retailers offer holiday light trade-in or recycling programs as an incentive to upgrade to LED lights. HolidayLEDs.com will accept your broken or no longer want-

ed incandescent lights any time and they'll even give you credit toward your next purchase of LED lights.

### 5. HOLIDAY GREETING CARDS

For decades St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City, Nev., has been collecting Christmas cards that they re-purpose and resell to raise funds for organization's mission. Add a new tradition to the end of your holiday season by donating your stack of holiday cards to a good cause. Only the fronts of cards are needed and they should be clear of writing or other marks on the back of the front flap.

Wrapping paper is the glaring item missing from this list. While all wrapping paper should be recyclable that's simply not the case. Many are laminated or mixed with other non-recyclable materials like foil, glitter or plastic. You're better off choosing recyclable items or ones that can be used again such as gift bags, sheets of paper from magazines or newspapers, sheet music, or even colorful scarves make greener choices for gift wrap.

Visit DoYourPart.com/Columns for additional information and useful links to help increase your recycling efforts this holiday season.

*Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.*

## Silver lining in dark economic times: Recycling rates soar

By PAUL ROGERS  
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

**SAN JOSE, Calif.**—For the past three years, Mark Schwede has been coming to Ranch Town Recycling in San Jose's Willow Glen neighborhood, dropping off cans and bottles every couple of months to make a few extra bucks.

As the economy worsened, he began to notice a change.

"Before, it was mostly people with shopping carts," he said. "Now you're seeing nicer cars here."

The trend has taken off around the state. As California's economy has worsened, the state's recycling rates have soared, with more people than ever cashing in beverage containers instead of throwing them in the trash or leaving them at the curb.

Last year, 82 percent of the aluminum cans, glass bottles and plastic bottles sold in California were recycled, up from 74 percent in 2008 and 55 percent in 2003, according to state statistics. That's the highest rate since 1992, when 82 percent were recycled amid another recession.

What once seemed like pocket change now seems like valuable extra income, experts say.

California is one of 11 states that charge a fee on beverage containers to encourage recycling. The state charges 5 cents on each glass bottle, aluminum can and plastic container up to 24 ounces, and 10 cents for containers 24 ounces and up. When consumers turn bottles and cans in at recycling centers, they get the money back.



Saulman Valani, owner of Ranch Town Recycling Center in San Jose, California, appears with a sorting machine on Friday, December 10, 2010.

Two main factors are driving the recycling surge.

California's recycling rate, among the highest in the nation now, had been mired between 50 and 60 percent between 2000 and 2006. But it jumped to 67 percent in 2007 when a new state law increased the redemption value of most cans and bottles from 4 cents to 5 cents each.

Then came the Wall Street crash, California's 12 percent unemployment rate and the end of the housing bubble.

"I do think we have seen a boost in recycling rates because of the economy," said Mark Murray, executive director of Californians Against Waste, a Sacramento environmental group.

"Part of it was that the redemption rate went up to a nickel. When you are looking at how to make ends meet, you might not notice a few pennies, but a nickel gets on the radar screen."

The Valani family started Ranch Town Recycling with one employee in 1996. Today there are 13. On a recent weekday, as forklifts zipped around the lot, a steady stream of customers drove in. Some were

scruffy, others well-dressed.

Owner Saulman Valani pays \$2 a pound for aluminum. About 30 cans are in a pound. Glass bottles fetch 10 cents a pound, with two bottles per pound. And No. 1 plastic bottles pay 91 cents a pound, with 16 bottles per pound.

If each person in a family of four drinks one canned soda and one plastic bottle of juice per day, at those rates, recycling every container would earn the family about \$180 a year.

"Friends collect bottles and cans for me," said Jeaneen Teixeira of San Jose, hauling two large bags to the weigh scales. "I use the money to bake cookies and fudge to give to people for Christmas. That's what I give for presents. It's an easy way to make extra money."

In many cities, if people put fewer aluminum cans in curbside recycling bins, the losers are the private companies that collect and recycle materials under contract with cities. That could cause them to seek to renegotiate. But that hasn't happened in San Jose, said John Stufflebean, city environmental

services director.

Statewide, the recycling boom continues to grow.

For the first six months of 2010, a staggering 86 percent of all beverage containers in California were recycled, the highest rate in state history since the first bottle bills were passed in 1987. And within that mountain of material, 95 percent of aluminum cans—the most valuable of the recyclables—were recycled in the first six months of 2010, compared with 90 percent of glass bottles and 74 percent of No. 1 plastic bottles.

Put another way, Californians purchased roughly the same number of cans and bottles in 2003—about 20 billion—as they did last year. But in 2003, they recycled 10 billion of them, and last year they recycled 17 billion.

Apart from reducing litter, the increased recycling has helped free up space in landfills. Ten years ago, the state estimated that its landfills had a combined life of 35 years left. Now they have 45 years, said Mark Oldfield, a spokesman for the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, although he noted that some of the extra space is due to a drop in construction, which means less debris going to landfills.

Meanwhile, recycling centers have become a crossroad of society.

"We have grandparents come in and they say they are going to put the money in their grandchildren's college fund," Valani said.

"I see families where the dad says to his kids, 'Let me show you the value of earning money.' I hear it all day."



## Life & Style

# Rehab staffer accuses Lohan of battery, then fired

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A day that began with authorities confirming Lindsay Lohan was being investigated for battery on a female staffer at a California rehab facility treating the starlet ended with the worker fired after giving an interview about the incident.

Riverside County sheriff's detectives said Tuesday they are investigating the "Mean Girls" star for an alleged altercation with a worker at a Betty Ford Center facility in Palm Desert that occurred after 1 a.m. on Dec. 12.

The agency declined to say what prompted the fight, but said the worker was interested in pursuing charges against Lohan.

Betty Ford spokesman Russ Patrick said the staffer was fired for identifying patients at the center in an interview and "disclosing a privileged document."

Although Betty Ford and the sher-

iff's department did not identify the worker, she appeared in an interview on celebrity website TMZ on Tuesday afternoon and was promptly fired. She claims the 24-year-old Lohan and two other girls had sneaked out of the facility.

In the video, Dawn Holland claims she was trying to get Lohan to submit to a breathalyzer test when the actress became belligerent, pushed her and snatched a phone from her hand, straining her arm.

Attempts to reach Holland were unsuccessful. A phone number registered to her was not accepting calls Tuesday evening.

Lohan has not been arrested or charged in the incident. Her attorney, Shawn Chapman Holley, said in an e-mailed statement that it was the actress who called for police.

She declined to offer additional



Lohan

details, citing the ongoing sheriff's investigation.

While the fallout for Holland was swift, Lohan's situation remains unclear. A judge has ordered her to remain at Betty Ford until Jan. 3 and remain out of trouble until Feb. 25. He also ordered her to submit to all drug and alcohol screenings or face up to six months in jail for violating her probation on a 3-year-old drunk driving case.

Riverside County sheriff's Deputy Herlinda Valenzuela said Lohan's case would be presented to prosecutors, who will decide whether Lohan faces a new charge.

Lohan has been receiving treatment at the Betty Ford Center and its facilities, about 120 miles east of Los Angeles, since late September.

Patrick's statement said that until Tuesday, Betty Ford had upheld the

confidentiality of 96,000 patients who had received treatment there since it opened in 1982.

He said Holland's interview was a breach of trust and the rehab process.

"When patients come to the center for treatment, they come to a safe place where their identity is protected, where anonymity is safeguarded," he said in an e-mail. "Their simple priority when in treatment is to learn how to live a life free of alcohol and other drugs."

"Confidentiality and trust are key to the treatment and recovery process."

Lohan's stint at Betty Ford is her fifth stay in rehab and her second this year.

Beginning in July, she was jailed for 14 days, followed by three weeks at inpatient rehab. Fox agreed to release her early from treatment at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in late August based on doctor's recommendations.

**LONDON (AP)**—If you think it's hard for most brides to feel comfortable in a new family, put yourself in Kate Middleton's shoes: "granny" is Queen Elizabeth II, dad is the famously cranky Prince Charles—and, hardest of all, she'll always be compared to the late Princess Di.

No one can measure up to the departed, and Middleton will be jousting with the memory of one of the best-known women of the 20th Century.

"That's a tough legacy to live up to, and I feel bad for the poor girl," said Elsie Andrews, a retired nurse, as she weighed up Middleton's future with her fiancé Prince William.

She said Kate shouldn't be judged on a "Diana scale" but should be allowed to "make her own waves" and find her own way through the royal maze.

Still, Diana's imposing presence was unmistakable on the eventful day last month when Middleton and William, both 28, announced their engagement, largely because the prince chose to give his fiancée his mother's spectacular diamond-and-sapphire engagement ring.

William spoke movingly that day about using the ring as a way to give his late mother a role in the wedding, and Middleton talked publicly about Diana for the first time, calling her an inspiration.

Most engagement rings, of course, come with less baggage. Will the spectacular ring on Middleton's finger weigh her down, serving as a priceless reminder of the impossibly high expectations she faces as she eases into Diana's glass slippers by marrying an heir to the throne?

Will Middleton carve out her own path in the royal drama or—like Diana—be crushed by the loneliness and pressure of being a real-life princess?

As Middleton seeks her place, she will find herself bumping into Diana's legend whichever way she turns.

Looking for glamor? Diana danced with John Travolta at the White House, palled around with Elton John, and spent some holidays off the French Riviera on luxury yachts while the paparazzi used ever longer lenses to try to catch her sunbathing.

Looking for style? Diana's outfits by the likes of Versace, Galliano, Dior, Valentino and other iconic designers made her a fashion trailblazer whose impact was global. Part of her star power lay in the way her sad, haunted eyes were set off by some of the world's most spectacular jewels.

Looking for a charitable role? Diana broke the royal mold by embracing AIDS victims and helped shape government policy by walking through fields laced with land mines as part of her effort to get them banned. She was much more than a lady who lunched.

Middleton has stayed resolutely out of the lime-

## Diana's legacy to burden Kate Middleton

By GILLIAN SMITH and GREGORY KATZ  
ASSOCIATED PRESS



In this Tuesday Jan. 14, 1997 file photo, Diana, Princess of Wales, talks to amputees, at the the Neves Bendinha Orthopedic Workshop on the outskirts of Luanda, Angola.

light in recent weeks. When she does make her first public appearance since becoming engaged, the British public, and raftloads of commentators, will be gauging whether she has Diana's natural flair.

But Diana's image 13 years after her death is still a moving target. Some view her as a compassionate "queen of hearts" while others see her as little more than a tall fashion plate. Diana's train wreck of a marriage left her desperately unhappy and this is how some people remember her—as a troubled,

neurotic woman in need of help.

Intimidating? Just a little. Everything Diana did was front page.

"I think it's undoubtedly a burden for Kate," said Susan Lee, a columnist at the Liverpool Echo newspaper who has written extensively about the royals.

"Diana was the most photographed woman of the age. She transformed the House of Windsor, she changed the way we look at royalty, and she was very accessible, she spoke to ordinary people, and

people felt they could speak to her. She made royalty human for the first time."

Middleton may reject Diana's way and choose a much more private course once she becomes a princess. If she is looking for marital harmony, she will have to look beyond Diana for inspiration.

Diana and Charles suffered the most public of marital breakdowns—each confessing their infidelities and unhappiness to the press—and the savvy, well-educated Middleton must know that the Windsors' vast wealth and public position tends to make marriage tougher, not easier.

"I am so glad that I am not in the situation that Kate is in," said Ashley Ellensberg, a 22-year-old London college student. "Kate has great potential as a princess, and she might grow to shine brighter than Diana did. I think Kate is exactly what we need right now. I think she will do just fine and will develop as a princess in her own way."

All of the pressures that a young bride faces will be magnified for Middleton, whose very choice of a wedding dress is fraught with political, social and financial implications. And Diana's ghostly presence will intensify the pressure.

"It is hard for any woman marrying into a family to live up to the legacy of the mother-in-law, or to even just be approved of by her," said Ann Buchanan, director of the University of Oxford Center for Research into Parenting and Children.

"But Kate is her own person and does not need to follow directly in Diana's footsteps. She has developed her own identity, which is quite different from that of Diana, and I think this will help her in the long run."

Buchanan said there are key differences between the two women that should work in Middleton's favor as she copes with the fishbowl that is royal life in the Internet age. She said Diana had a difficult childhood complicated by the divorce of her parents, while Middleton comes from a stable family environment.

In addition, she said, Diana was only 19 when she got engaged, much younger than Middleton is today, and Diana became a mother almost immediately, even as she coped with her new husband's ongoing affair with Camilla Parker Bowles. By contrast, Middleton has a more solid base as she joins "the firm," as the monarchy is sometimes called here.

"Kate is older, she has some idea of who she is," Buchanan said. "She has a university education which helps her problem solve; she has spent many years considering the possibility of marrying into royalty. The marriage is not an impulsive act. I suspect the royal family have learnt a lot from the past. And hopefully there is no 'Camilla' in William's life."



# 'Spider-Man' stunt goes awry; is show in peril?

NEW YORK (AP)—Broadway might need a superhero to save the new Spider-Man musical. "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark," the most expensive production in Broadway history, suffered its fourth accident in a month when a stuntman playing the web-slinger fell about 30 feet into a stage pit during a preview Monday night. The safety tether that clips to his back failed to prevent the spill.

The performer, Christopher W. Tierney, was wheeled out of the Foxwoods Theatre on a stretcher, still in his costume, and taken by ambulance to Bellevue Hospital with minor injuries. He suffered broken ribs and internal bleeding, said a castmate, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak publicly about the musical.

In a statement, Actors' Equity



A television news van is parked in front of Foxwoods Theatre, Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2010 in New York. The troubled Broadway musical "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" was plagued by its fourth accident since it began previews last month when a performer doing an aerial stunt fell about 30 feet, fire officials said.

said investigators determined but said additional safety measures are being undertaken. A state Department of Labor

spokesman said the cause was under investigation.

The fall was the latest setback for the troubled, \$65 million show.

Conceived by Tony-winning director Julie Taymor and U2's Bono and The Edge, who wrote the music, "Spider-Man" has been more than eight years in the making. It has been plagued by delays, money woes and three other accidents, including one in which an actress suffered a concussion, and another in which a performer broke his wrists in an aerial stunt. Its official opening has been postponed twice, to early February.

The huge costs—a 41-member

cast, 18 orchestra members, complicated sets and 27 daring aerial stunts, including a battle between two characters over the audience—mean the 1,928-seat theater will have to virtually sell out every show for several years just to break even. The weekly running bill has been put as high as \$1 million. (Tickets are \$67.50 to \$135 for weekday performances, \$67.50 to \$140 on weekends.)

A spokesman for "Spider-Man," Rick Miramontez, said in a statement that new safety measures ordered by the government after the latest accident have been adopted. Wednesday's matinee was canceled, but Wednesday night's show will go on, Miramontez said. (No performance had been scheduled for Tuesday.)

Leo Rosales, spokesman for the New York Department of Labor, said the show's producers had not yet presented new safety protocols and would do so on Wednesday. If the measures were inadequate, he said, the state won't let the show perform the complicated aerial maneuvers.

"If it takes longer, it will need to take longer," he said of the show's timing. "We need to be satisfied."

One audience member who attended Monday's performance, Brian Lynch, said he knew of the previous mishaps and still wanted to come.

"I was making jokes about it

earlier in the day," said Lynch, visiting from Hollywood, Calif. "I said if anyone got hurt I was ready to jump in and help out. I never thought it would happen, I thought they probably worked it all out. I really didn't think it would happen like it did. It was pretty horrific."

The accident happened during the show's big finale, when the Green Goblin drops Mary Jane and Spider-Man leaps to her rescue.

"But then he just kept falling, it seemed, and then everything went dark and then people, crew ran up to the stage and we heard the girl playing Mary Jane screaming from the pit," Lynch said.

"Spider-Man" might yet prevail. Other Broadway shows have struggled with getting their sets and stunts to work during previews, including "Mary Poppins," whose house set went off track in 2006, and "Titanic," which was plagued by numerous technical problems during a month of previews in 1997. Both were hits.

Mary Martin, who starred many times in productions of "Peter Pan," had numerous accidents, "beauties," as she flew about the stage. A year before she died, in a 1989 interview with the Chicago Tribune, she recalled smashing into a concrete wall during a rehearsal as she was trying to show the children in the cast that they shouldn't fear being in the air.

## Cuba celebrates ballet legend Alonso's 90th b-day

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba feted the 90th birthday of dance legend Alicia Alonso with a ballet and music-filled gala dedicated to the island's prima ballerina assoluta.

The audience at the gilded Gran Teatro in Old Havana broke into a standing ovation when the sprightly diva—considered a living legend of international ballet and a national treasure in her native Cuba—swept in and took the place of honor ahead of Monday night's performance on the eve of her birthday.

Dressed in a sweeping camel cape and her hallmark headscarf turban—in white with a sprinkling of sequins—the grande dame smiled down on her admirers and waved regally.

Despite an eye ailment that

has left her nearly blind, Alonso continues to lead the Cuban National Ballet, which grew out of the Alicia Alonso Ballet Company she founded in 1948.

Two of her proteges, star dancers Viengsay Valdes and Yadiel Suarez, opened Monday's program with an emotional interpretation of "ParAlicia," a choreography dedicated to Alonso.

The program also included performances by soprano Johana Simon and singers Polito Ibanez and Ivette Cepeda, and wrapped up with a Cuban jazz session by the group Ernan Lopez-Nussa y Habana Report.

Born in Havana on Dec. 21, 1920, Alicia Ernestina de la Caridad del Cobre Martinez Hoya

began studying ballet at age 9. When she was 15, she married another ballet student, Fernando Alonso, and they moved to New York, where she danced with Ballet Caravan, now the New York City Ballet. In 1940, she joined the Ballet Theater of New York, which became American Ballet Theater.

She was soon promoted to the role of principal dancer, winning special acclaim for her interpretation of the roles of Giselle and Carmen and for her legendary performances in "Swan Lake."

Her eyesight failed early in her career, and she danced many of her famous roles while partially blind, guided on stage by her partner's placement and by the stage lights.

## Ex-Afghan commander McChrystal writing memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Retired Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, the Afghanistan war commander forced out in June after making negative comments about Obama administration officials, is working on a memoir.

McChrystal will write about his recent controversy, but as part of a broader story about his career and changes in the country's military since he was at West Point in the early 1970s, he said Tuesday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

"I like to be thought of as absolutely honest, but I am not seeking to write a combative work," said McChrystal, 56, known for his blunt and un-

compromising instincts. "I am trying to write a memoir and history that has real value. It's not designed to be part of the daily news cycle. It's designed to have long-term value."

Much of McChrystal's career was spent on the front lines in the war on terrorism, studying al-Qaida and orchestrating secret raids. In 2006, his operation was credited with nabbing Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq and one of the most-wanted fugitives there. His special operations forces that year were also accused by human rights activists of abusing detainees at Camp Nama at Baghdad International Airport.

President Barack Obama appointed McChrystal in June 2009 to lead the fight in Afghanistan but fired him a year later after a Rolling Stone magazine article featured unflattering remarks by McChrystal and his inner circle about political and diplomatic officials.

McChrystal, a four-star general, retired in July with full military honors.

Asked if he would express second thoughts in the book, McChrystal said that it was inevitable to wish some things "might have gone differently, but that he certainly didn't 'get up in the morning regretting things' he had done.

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**Little Fockers**

Thursday 1:20 4:20 7:20

**Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller**  
Comedy • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

A birthday party for the twins gives Greg an opportunity to redeem himself after he takes a job that raises the suspicions of his overbearing father-in-law, Jack (Robert De Niro), in this installment of the hit comedy series. Greg (Ben Stiller) and Pam (Teri Polo) have been together for ten years, and now they're the proud parents of two adorable twins. But money is tight, and in order to keep his family afloat, devoted nurse Greg takes a second job working for a drug company.



**True Grit**

Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25

**Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon**  
Western • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

A 14-year-old girl joins an aging U.S. marshal (Jeff Bridges) and another lawman (Matt Damon) in tracking her father's killer into hostile Indian territory in Joel and Ethan Coen's adaptation of Charles Portis' original novel. Sticking more closely to the source material than the 1969 feature adaptation starring Western icon John Wayne, the Coens' True Grit tells the story from the young girl's perspective, and re-teams the celebrated filmmaking duo with their No Country for Old Men screenwriting partner Scott Rudin. Josh Brolin co-stars.



**Yogi Bear**

Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00

**Justin Timberlake, Dan Aykroyd**  
Children's, Family • Rated PG

### Synopsis

Hanna-Barbera's beloved picnic basket-stealing bear makes his big-screen debut in this live-action/animated mix children's pic from Ash Brannon, co-director of Surf's Up. The Tooth Fairy writing team of Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia provide the screenplay, which will center around CG Yogi and Boo Boo as they interact with live actors in Jellystone Park.



**Tron Legacy**

Thursday 1:05 4:05 7:05

**Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges**  
Science, Fiction • Rated PG



**Fighter**

Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30

**Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale**  
Drama • Rated R



**How Do You Know?**

Thursday 1:10 4:10 7:10

**Reese Witherspoon, Owen Wilson**  
Comedy • Rated PG 13



**The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader**

Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15

**Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes**  
Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

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## George Lopez says he'd like to be LA mayor—NOT

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Comedian George Lopez caused a stir when he told a TV news program Tuesday that he wanted to be mayor of Los Angeles, but his municipal political ambitions were a joke.

Lopez insisted he was serious when told the Fox 11 news show "Good Day L.A." on Tuesday that he wants to run for mayor.



Lopez

Lopez said that if actor Arnold Schwarzenegger could become California's governor, there's no reason he couldn't be LA's mayor. He added he'd be a sort of a "Lo-bama," instead of an Obama.

Fox put out a press release about the announcement. But Lopez's spokeswoman, Ina Tre-ciokas, late in the day had the punch line: Lopez was kidding.

## Palace: Zara Phillips engaged to be married

LONDON (AP)—Prince William and Kate Middleton will soon have company on the royal wedding calendar. Buckingham Palace announced Tuesday that Zara Phillips, Queen Elizabeth II's eldest granddaughter, is engaged.

Phillips, an accomplished equestrian, said she was shocked but "very happy" that her rugby-playing boyfriend Mike Tindall had proposed.

No date has been set yet. Phillips is close friends with her cousin, Prince William, who plans to marry Middleton at Westminster Abbey on April 29. Their engagement was announced last month.

Phillips, 29, is 12th in line to the throne.

The 32-year-old Tindall has played 66 times for England and was in the team that won the 2003 World Cup. It was during the tournament that he first met Phillips in a Sydney bar. Tindall plays for club side Gloucester and is still a regular in the national side.

The palace said in a statement that the couple got engaged Monday evening at their home in western England.

In a statement, Phillips said she was "really shocked when Mike proposed but I am very happy."

Tindall said: "I am delighted that Zara has agreed to marry me. We are both very excited about the next stage of our lives together."

Buckingham Palace said the queen and her husband Prince Philip "are delighted with the news."

Phillips, the daughter of Princess Anne, has won medals in world equestrian championships and was once voted BBC sports personality of the year—as was her mother, who shares her loves of horses.

She was due to compete at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, but pulled out of the competition



Zara Phillips, right, and her fiancé Mike Tindall, after announcing their engagement, in Gloucestershire, England, Tuesday Dec. 21, 2010.

because of an injury to her horse.

The marriage between Princess Anne and Phillips' father, Mark Phillips, ended in divorce in 1992. Princess Anne has since remarried.

## Rapper confesses to '93 NY murder, authorities say

NEW YORK (AP)—The 1993 killing of a man outside a housing complex was a cold case for years until a suspect appeared on detectives' doorstep last week.

Apparently haunted by his secret, once-promising rapper G. Dep walked into a police precinct to confess to the shooting, authorities said. The rapper is being held without bail after surprised investigators matched the details he provided to the unsolved slaying of John Henkel. Initially charged with murder, he was indicted Tuesday on a charge that won't be disclosed until a court date next month.

For the 36-year-old G. Dep, the case marks a nadir in his long fall from rapper on the rise. After scoring a couple of hits in the early 2000s, he has been mired in drug and legal problems in recent years, though he was attempting a comeback with an album released online this year.

But the shooting case also represents his determination to turn a troubled life around, his lawyer said Tuesday. "He's trying to remake his life," attorney Michael Alperstein said. Guided by a substance-treatment program, "he was making amends," Alperstein said.

The bearded rapper said nothing during a brief appearance Tuesday in a Manhattan court, looking back at about a dozen relatives and supporters as he was led away. They declined to comment afterward.

Henkel was shot in the chest three times outside an East Harlem apartment complex early on Oct. 19, 1993, well before G. Dep's brief heyday. The rapper told a detective last week he pulled a .40-caliber handgun to rob the victim and fired when he resisted.

## Vegetarians and vegans weigh in on meaty issues

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**DEAR ABBY:** I am writing about the letter from "Turkey Eater in Texas" (Nov. 12), who resented having a vegan Thanksgiving to accommodate two family members. I think your answer missed what being a gracious host is about. The entire meal shouldn't have to consist of vegan items. However, it wouldn't be a big deal to serve a vegan main dish and have those individuals also bring their favorite items. Making them bring a complete meal excludes them from a family gathering, and what fun is that?

After your column ran, my father called to tell me that holiday dinners would no longer accommodate my daughter's celiac disease. She's 9 and struggles with being "different." When she ingests gluten, she has cramps and vomiting, loses weight and risks significant long-term consequences.

Next year, we will host the holiday dinners. Our extended family can join us—or not. The bottom line is that if you exclude family (for being vegan or having celiac disease), you've done the opposite of what holidays are about.

KAYE IN ALABAMA

**DEAR KAYE:** That's true. What bothered me about the letter from "Turkey Eater" was the idea that his brother expected him to cater the entire Thanksgiving dinner to his nieces' preference to eat vegan. If the writer had said he had been asked to ensure there were dishes that would not inflame (literally) his nieces' serious medical condition, I would have answered differently.

What has surprised me about the comments I have received from readers about that letter has been the amount of prejudice and anger expressed against vegetarians by more than a few. But read on for some responses from vegans:

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a vegan in a meat and potatoes family. For 15 years I have spent every holiday and family gathering listening to them degrade my food choices and try to "convert" me back to my "senses." I have never expected them to cook for me. I always pack my own foods since they are unwilling to branch out and try new foods. When I have brought a dish, they all loved it, as long as they didn't know it was vegan and that I had prepared it.

I find many people are resentful if we host a dinner party with only vegan food. They expect us to accommodate them by cooking meat, but feel we should fend for ourselves at a function they hold. I encourage people to please get over the stigma of vegan/vegetarian and sample something new once in a while. If I can endure every family gathering taking place at a steakhouse, I don't think it's unreasonable to have one night when they experience how tasty food without meat in it can be.

RACHEL IN SEATTLE

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 31 and have been a vegetarian my entire life. I come from a meat-loving family and have never insisted they change an entire meal to accommodate my eating habits. Instead, I take food I know I will eat and share it with everyone else. "Turkey Eater's" vegan relatives should realize they're in the minority. If they each brought a vegan-friendly dish or two, they'd have three to six things to choose from—and that's plenty.

EATING WELL IN NEW MEXICO

**DEAR ABBY:** I chose veganism for many reasons, none of which is to be a pain in the keister—either by lecturing/scolding others, or by having high-maintenance expectations. I feel it's important to be flexible, especially at get-togethers. What I value most about holidays is sharing a meal with people I love. If I want a completely vegan Thanksgiving, it should be one that I host and prepare. To expect that of non-vegetarians is not only unreasonable, but also difficult, since many people are inexperienced in how to cook vegan.

My family Thanksgiving has an array of omnivores, vegetarians and vegans. Dad loves to cook and makes sure there's something for everyone. I help bake pies, others bring a vegan dish and everyone is content. Sometimes the vegetarian dishes are so delicious, the omnivores salivate.

Mutual respect is of utmost importance. Being militant or demanding can bring a negative perspective to vegetarianism. If we want others to empathize with us, we need to do the same

THANKFUL VEGAN IN KANSAS CITY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## 2010 was a 'Perfect Gift' for Canadian Tenors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A year after releasing their first hit album, the Canadian Tenors are delivering "The Perfect Gift," a compilation of traditional and contemporary holiday music.

"You have the classics like 'O Holy Night' and 'Silent Night,' but there are songs that are not necessarily Christmas-specific," explained tenor Victor Micallef. "Some great producers worked on that, as well," added band mate Clifton Murray. "'Hallelujah' was (produced by) Bob Ezrin, who worked on 'The Wall.'"

That's as in Pink Floyd's "The Wall"—just one of many aspects of The Tenors that may surprise. The quartet's clean-cut, all-North American looks scream "pre-fab," and, indeed, the band was the brainchild of Canadian

composer Jill Ann Siemens, who first started work on the project some 10 years ago. The current configuration of the group is Victor Micallef, Clifton Murray, Remigio Pereira and Fraser Walters, who said that while they might not have come together organically, that's precisely how they've stayed together.

"Unlike some of these other pre-fab groups, there is a lot of money involved and everything," Pereira said. "We started grassroots and just slowly built up. We cut our teeth on the road doing that. That is how it all happened."

The recent holiday album was released in October, months after the group's debut album "The Canadian Tenors" ranked at the top of Billboard's Classical Albums chart.

Before making inroads stateside, Pereira

termine how much of the anesthetic propofol and painkiller lidocaine they contained. Coroner's officials ruled Jackson died of acute propofol intoxication. Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor will hear the testing arguments on Dec. 29. Murray has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter.

### Blaze erupts on Kings of Leon tour buses

LONDON (AP)—Sixty firefighters tackled a blaze on Tuesday at London's O2 Arena that engulfed two tour buses belonging to the U.S. band Kings of Leon. The



In this Oct. 8, 2010 photo, the Canadian Tenors, from left, Fraser Walters, Clifton Murray, Victor Micallef and Remigio Pereira pose for a photo in Los Angeles.

said, the group did 12 shows in 12 small towns without hitting the two main cities—Saskatoon, Regina.

fire forced the Tennessee rockers to cancel Tuesday night's concert — the finale to their European tour. London Fire Brigade said 12 fire engines were called out to battle the early morning fire in a loading area. Six people were treated for smoke inhalation, but no one was hospitalized. Seating areas of the arena were unaffected, but the band said in a statement that "the complications and disruption caused by this morning's fire have meant there is now insufficient time to rig the arena for tonight's performance." The show will be rescheduled for next year.

### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

#### Judge to decide Jackson syringe testing issues

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge overseeing the criminal case of a doctor charged in Michael Jackson's death has scheduled a hearing to determine if medical items found in the singer's bedroom should undergo more testing that defense attorneys contend is crucial to the case. Attorneys for Dr. Conrad Murray have been asking for months that fluids in two syringes and an IV bag found in Jackson's rented mansion be tested to de-



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



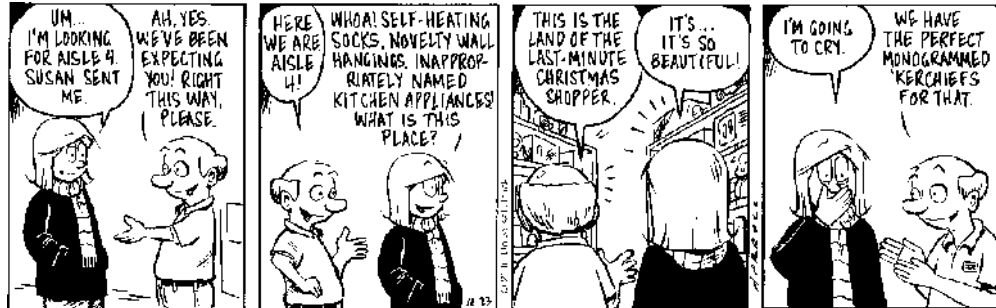
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Jungfrau, for one

4 Docket entry

8 White spread

12 Vast expanse

13 Awe-struck

14 Pinnacle

15 Fence for defense

17 Anatomical network

18 See 6-Down

19 Ache aid

21 Pluto, once

24 Historic boy king

25 Tease

26 Tear

28 Re-Benedict XVI

32 Earthenware pot

34 Promptly

36 Tibetan monk

37 Commemorative pillar

39 Homer's section

**DOWN**

41 Parcel of land

42 Winter ailment

44 Put the — on

46 Ocean motion

50 Toast topping

51 Curved molding

52 One of Rome's seven hills

56 Fiv-denced a pinprick

57 Sweeping story

58 "Platoon" setting, for short

59 Missile shelter

60 Dweeb

61 Chances, for short

**DOWN**

1 Venomous viper

2 Meadow

3 Easily perceived

4 Friendly ghost

5 — Khan

6 With 18-Across, carbonated drink

7 Spew out

8 Wedlock-related

9 Unoriginal one

10 Bigfoot's cousin

11 The yoke's on them

16 Accelerator bit

20 Young seal

21 Experts

22 Springlike melody

23 Stannum

27 Spacecraft compartment

29 Cream-colored horse

30 Andy's pal

31 Strip of wood

33 Fettucine sauce

35 Moo goo gai pan

38 Hearty brew

40 Com-mandeer

43 Let off the hook?

45 Cudgel

46 Kemels' cores

47 Wrinkly citrus

48 Bobbin

49 Recording

53 Whopper

54 Siesta

55 Type measures

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 12-23

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Greg Biffle, 41; Eddie Vedder, 46; Susan Lucci, 64; Harry Shearer, 67

**Happy Birthday:** Make the changes you need in your life in order to achieve happiness. Don't be afraid to take a different approach to reach your goals. Sometimes it takes going outside your comfort zone to get where you want to go. Strength and courage are your attributes, so use them to get ahead. Your numbers are 5, 14, 18, 23, 31, 34, 48

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Spend time with the person you can share and reflect with or who makes you laugh and feel good about yourself. Change is heading your way and clearing the dead weight in your life is a must. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You may not like what someone at home is doing but grin and bear it or emotions will flare up and make your world difficult. No matter what it is that you do not like, know that it will pass or change very quickly if you don't make a fuss. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Money matters will be of concern. Stay within your budget and you will enjoy the last week of the year. A pending agreement can be settled if you work fast and hard to do whatever legwork is required. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** A last-minute change will be the icing on the cake this festive season. Use your imagination and you will thrill the people you love. ★★★★★

Taking on a work responsibility to ensure that it's finished on time may require your taking it home with you. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Your interest will lead to something you least expect. Putting your best foot forward and showing your generous spirit and charm to everyone you come in contact with will teach you a valuable lesson about life, love and success. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Elaborate all you want but, when it comes to the bottom line, doing will make what you say believable. Go the distance. Your thoughtfulness will be well received and rewarded in ways you cannot imagine. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't overdo it or let anyone push responsibilities on your shoulders that you really cannot handle. Less will be more this year when it comes to spending money, travel and commitments. Follow your intuition. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** It's not too late to make changes. If you aren't happy with something or someone, make it clear what you want and expect. You have the upper hand but must act upon it if you want things to turn in your favor. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You may feel as if you have to explain your current position but, the more you talk, the more complicated things will get. Be entertaining and cheerful but avoid discussing any of your considerations for the new year. ★★★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Get to the bottom of any emotional situation that is looming. This is not the time to let on that you are disappointed but it is the time to make sure you don't let someone else down. A change of plans is likely. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Not everyone will share your opinion or your attitude. Observe before you make a move that may not be in your best long-term interest. You can stabilize your situation by accommodating someone who helped you in the past. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't leave work unfinished even if you have to put in extra hours. Unless you finish what you started, it will be difficult to enjoy the festivities. Someone you love will be proud of you and will reward you accordingly. ★★★★★

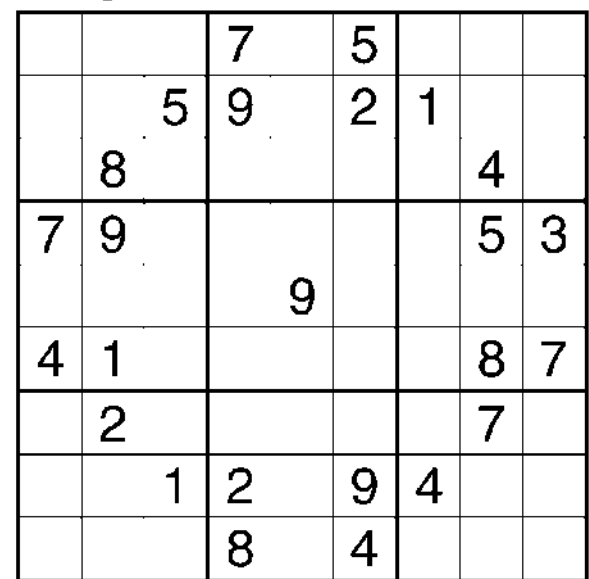
**Birthday Baby:** You are unpredictable and curious, generous and outgoing. You stand up for what you believe. You are a leader.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

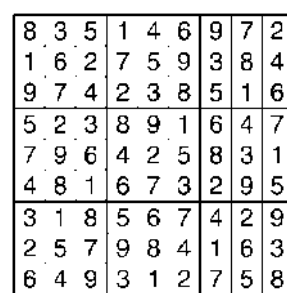


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letters spell the Wonderword.

THINGS TO DO IN THE SNOW

Solution: 9 letters



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Ball, Banks, Bases, Casts, Chili, Climb, Count, Dance, Days, Deep, Delight, Drifts, Event, Flakes, Footprints, Games, Hats, Hockey, Ice, Igloo, Inches, Kids, Layer, Leader, Merry, Moment, Pan, Play, Pile, Ride, Roads, Safety, Sett, Shiver, Shovel, Skating, Skid, Skiing, Slide, Snowman, Snowmob, e, Sport, Stack, Storm, Streets, Taste, Temperature, Time, Tubing

Yesterday's Answer: Folklore

The letters spelling the Wonderword are: T, R, A, S, H, Y, A, R, D, W, O, R, D, S, P, L, A, Y, S, K, N, A, B, I, H, N, A, A, L, L, I, H, C, K, S, K, I, D, G, E, L, M, O, S, P, T, S, O, T, I, S, E, I, L, L, E, W, T, L, R, H, K, W, S, N, D, L, T, K, S, E, O, A, O, I, L, A, E, S, T, E, S, I, S, S, R, N, P, V, G, E, T, L, A, D, A, V, E, D, M, U, S, E, M, L, V, I, I, S, C, A, H, F, G, F, T, R, F, N, O, O, N, B, T, T, C, O, U, N, T, A, R, Y, C, O, H, G, O, F, N, R, P, R, I, S, R, E, H, T, N, S, R, M, I, S, E, E, B, B, Y, E, K, T, O, E, A, E, W, R, E, Y, M, E, U, G, P, K, C, S, C, F, D, O, D, A, I, A, O, I, M, E, A, A, A, K, A, N, L, L, E, L, D, M, S, E, B, E, L, T, T, E, S, C, S, T, N, I, R, P, T, O, O, F, F, S, I, Y.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! \$9.95 per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ only). A King Features service, NYC.

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• 5-Liner with picture	<b>\$36</b>	<b>\$57</b>

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**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

**CANCELLATION**

**Classified Ads**

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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(JVA 11-003)**

OPENING DATE: **December 23, 2010**    CLOSING DATE: **January 7, 2011**

The NMI Retirement Fund ("Fund") seeks professionals for the following positions:

- **LEGAL SECRETARY** – Minimum qualification requirements include an Associates degree from an accredited college in secretarial, business, criminal justice, paralegal or related field, or an equivalent additional two years of secretarial experience, plus five (5) years of progressively responsible administrative or secretarial work experience with one (1) year of legal office work
- **INTERNAL AUDITOR** - Minimum qualification requirements include a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in accounting, finance, economics, business management, business administration, or criminal justice, *plus* five (5) years auditing experience (Other experience involving management or financial analysis may be considered for equivalency)

Interested applicants must submit their application, educational credentials, police clearance and a valid ID by 4:30 pm on **Friday, January 7, 2011**. Complete position descriptions are available from the Fund, located on Capitol Hill, Saipan; or by e-mail request to [sablanci@nmiretirement.com](mailto:sablanci@nmiretirement.com). Mailed and hand delivered packages must be marked "JVA11-003 Confidential" and have applicant's name and return address on the outside of the envelope. Please address submissions to:

Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator  
NMI Retirement Fund  
P.O. Box 501247  
Saipan, MP 96950-1247  
E-mail: [administrator01@nmiretirement.com](mailto:administrator01@nmiretirement.com)

**IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT  
STATE OF HAWAII  
FC-A NO. 09-1-0071**

In the Matter of the Adoption of  
A FEMALE CHILD, Born on  
May 10, 2007 by  
BRENT HARUKI SHIMOKAWA and  
ROXANNE SHIZUE MORI SHIMOKAWA  
Husband and Wife, Petitioners.

THE STATE OF HAWAII TO:

Guo An Zhan aka Zhan Guo An, whose last known address is unknown.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a petition for adoption of the above –identified child born to Mei Yue Piao aka Piao Mei Yue, the child's mother, has been filed in the Family Court, First Circuit State of Hawai'i.

THE PETITION ALLEGES that your consent to the adoption of the above-named child by the petitioners above-named is not required and may be dispensed with pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 578-2(c) as amended.

A hearing on the petition will be held on Tuesday, JAN. 25, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the Family Court located at 4675 Kapolei Parkway, 3rd Floor, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707.

IF YOU FAIL to appear at the hearing on the date and time and at the place noted above or if you fail to file a written response to the allegations reflected in the Petition for Adoption, further action may be taken including the granting of the adoption with further notice to you. Your written response should be addressed to the Presiding Judge, Family Court, First Circuit, 4675 Kapolei Parkway, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707.

FAILURE TO OBEY this notice may result in an entry of a default and default judgment against you.

YOUR ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the child, the adoptive parents and the natural parents have rights under H.R.S. Section 578-15 regarding confidentiality of adoption records after the child reaches age 18.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii, \_\_\_\_\_ NOV. 23, 2010 \_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ S. IHA  
Clerk of the above-entitled Court

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# Mavericks beat new-look Magic for Florida sweep



**ORLANDO, Fla.** (AP)—All the uncertainty around Orlando couldn't have worked out better for the Dallas Mavericks.

Not that they've had a problem with anybody lately.

Caron Butler scored 20 points, Dirk Nowitzki had 17 and the streaking Mavericks became the latest team to topple the reconstructed Magic in a 105-99 victory Tuesday night.

"We still know who they had," Nowitzki said of a Magic team that just overhauled its roster. "Dwight (Howard) is their focus. They have a bunch of shooters, Jameer (Nelson) and all those guys."

In other words, still not good enough to beat the NBA's elite.

Nowitzki also passed Celtics great Larry Bird for 25th on the NBA's career scoring list, finishing the night at 21,798 points. Tyson Chandler added 16 points to help the Mavericks pull away in the fourth quarter for their 16th win in 17 games.

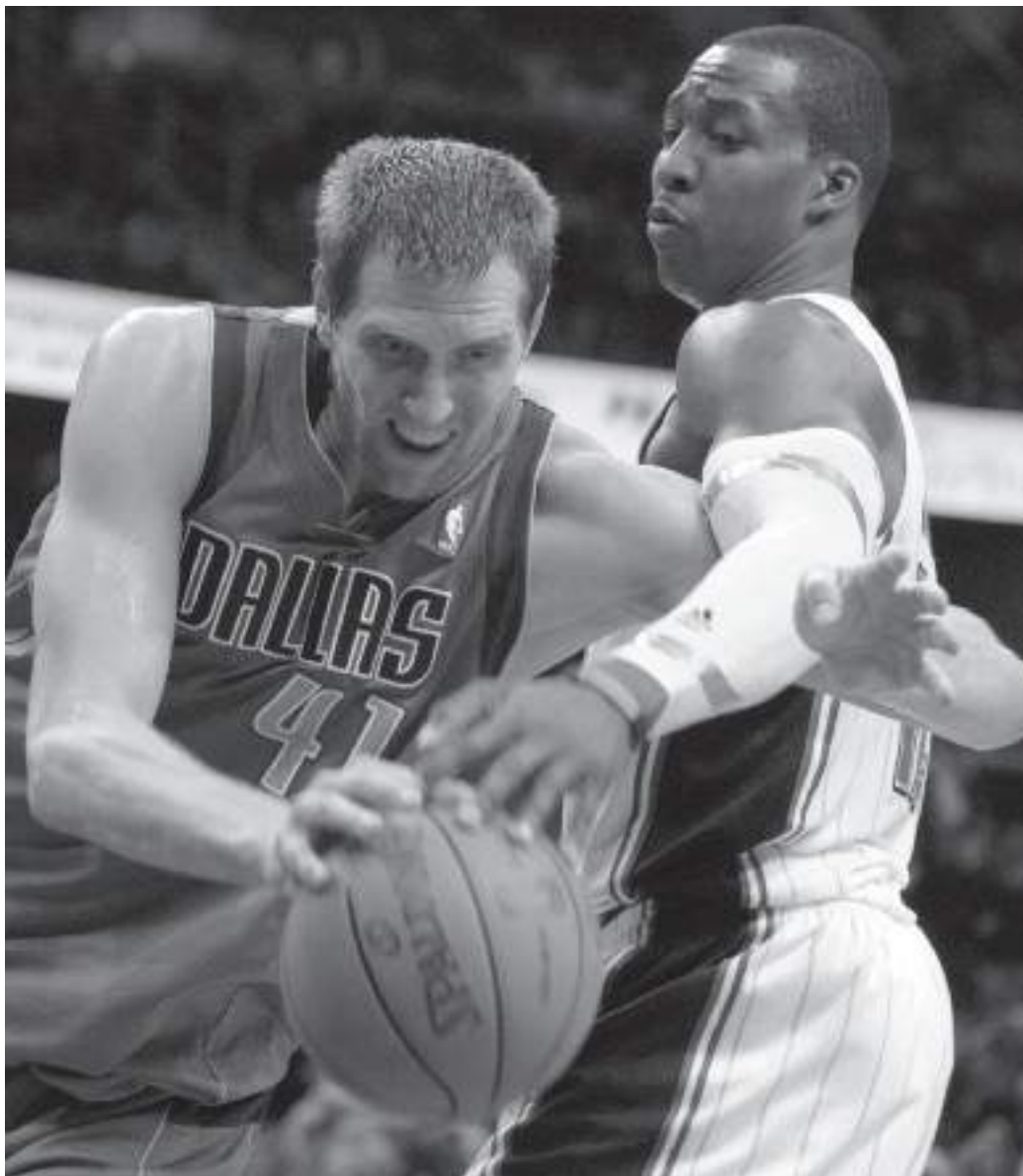
A night after snapping Miami's 12-game winning streak, they shot 50 percent from the floor, including 46 percent from 3-point range.

"We feel like we're one of the best teams in the league, if not the best right now," Butler said. "We're playing great basketball, so we want to capitalize on every opportunity."

And Orlando provided a perfect one.

The Magic again looked like a team that hasn't had time to hold a practice since newcomers Gilbert Arenas, Jason Richardson and Hedo Turkoglu were acquired on Saturday. They've lost the first two games since the pair of blockbuster trades and dropped eight of their last nine.

The latest came on another monster night for Howard, who had 26 points and 23 rebounds but got no help from his new teammates. Howard has had at least 20 rebounds in three straight games.



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki, left, of Germany, grabs a rebound in front of Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2010.

"It can't get any worse," Howard said of his team's slide. The Magic can only hope not.

Their next two games come against the league's top two teams: San Antonio and Boston.

The struggles were a big reason they orchestrated two trades that brought Arenas from Washington and Turkoglu, Richardson and Earl Clark from Phoenix. They gave up Rashard Lewis, Vince Carter, Mickael Pietrus and Marcin Gortat, plus a 2011 first-round draft pick, in the deals.

The three biggest newcomers have so far been unspectacular. After a loss at Atlanta in their first

outing together, their home debuts were equally troubling: Arenas had two points (1 for 6), Turkoglu nine points (2 for 11) and Richardson 10 points (4 for 13).

"None of those guys are shooting the ball very well right now," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "I don't know if it's being in a new situation or putting too much pressure on themselves. All three of them are struggling to shoot the ball."

The problem now is sorting out how this revamped roster is supposed to work.

It wasn't until the Mavericks went ahead by 12 points in the fourth quarter that the Magic—at

least those other than Howard—showed any consistent fight.

Richardson's 3-pointer with 56 seconds remaining trimmed the deficit to three. Then Jason Terry came back with a mid-range jumper from the wing, and Richardson followed with another from beyond the arc with 24 left to bring Orlando within two.

But the Mavericks would shoot free throws the rest of the way, and Orlando couldn't find any more Magic on this night. While they sort out how their revamped roster is supposed to work, opponents have already exposed their biggest weakness.

Dallas coach Rick Carlisle activated four centers against the suddenly undersized Magic, who are without a true backup center with Gortat gone but are exploring options to receive another inside presence. The big lineup turned out to be a big plus.

The Mavericks went ahead by 12 points in the first quarter behind strong play from Nowitzki. The 7-foot sharpshooter benefited often when he was guarded by Turkoglu, usually a small forward, and other undersized opponents.

Orlando did show some zip with a 17-2 run between the first and second quarters. The spurt was sparked by Arenas and Clark—and, surprisingly, with Howard and Jameer Nelson on the bench—and pushed the Magic ahead 31-29, with Howard leading a chest-bumping bonanza with every player and even Van Gundy during a timeout.

Turned out to be a premature celebration.

## Bucks 98, Lakers 79

In Los Angeles, undermanned Milwaukee produced a stunning upset, winning easily over Los Angeles.

Earl Boykins scored a season-high 22 points and John Salmons added 20 to end the two-time defending champions' five-game winning streak.

Kobe Bryant scored 21 points for the Lakers, who perhaps had their minds on the Christmas visit from the Miami Heat.

The Bucks had lost three straight and were down to nine healthy players against the Lakers, who had beaten them six straight times.

## Thunder 99, Bobcats 81

In Charlotte, Oklahoma City overcame a poor shooting night by dominating the fourth quarter in a victory over reeling Charlotte.

The Thunder entered the final period trailing 69-68, but responded with a 25-3 run. The

Bobcats missed their first 11 shots, committed five turnovers and didn't get their first field goal until 2:52 remained, producing sarcastic cheers.

Oklahoma's Kevin Durant scored 32 points, hitting 14-of-16 free throws and adding seven rebounds.

Stephen Jackson scored 20 points for the Bobcats, who dropped their fourth straight as coach Larry Brown continues to question their effort.

## Bulls 121, 76ers 76

In Chicago, the home team beat Philadelphia for its eighth win in nine games.

Despite missing big men Joakim Noah and Taj Gibson, Chicago dominated nearly every offensive category and recorded its most lopsided win of the season.

Derrick Rose and Luol Deng each scored 22 points. Rose also had 12 assists for his seventh double-double.

Andre Iguodala scored 17 points for Philadelphia.

## Nets 101, Grizzlies 94

In Memphis, New Jersey snapped a 10-game road losing skid by beating Memphis.

Brook Lopez scored 26 points and Sasha Vujacic added a season-high 16. Lopez was 8 of 14 from the field, and missed only one of his 11 free throws.

The Nets outrebounded Memphis 49-39.

Marc Gasol scored 19 points to lead the Grizzlies.

## Warriors 117, Kings 109, OT

In Sacramento, Monta Ellis scored nine of his 36 points in overtime to lift Golden State over struggling Sacramento.

The Warriors, who had lost 14 of their previous 16 games, rallied from a 16-point deficit in the fourth quarter to force overtime.

Reggie Williams scored 24 points for Golden State.

Beno Udrih scored a career-high 34 points for the Kings, who have lost six straight.



**BOSTON** (AP)—The Red Sox have

spent the offseason shoring up their bullpen, one of Boston's big weaknesses last season when it missed the playoffs for just the second time in eight years.

Make no mistake: The closer remains the same.

The Red Sox completed a two-year, \$12 million contract with former White Sox closer Bobby Jenks on Tuesday, adding him to the back of the bullpen with closer Jonathan Papelbon and the pitcher who had been in line to inherit that role, Daniel Bard. Red Sox general manager made it clear in a conference call with reporters that the ninth inning still belongs to Papelbon.

"We feel really lucky that Bob-

# Jenks, Red Sox complete \$12M, 2-year deal

by wanted to pitch here and that we were able to get someone of his caliber to help Dan Bard set up for Papelbon," general manager Theo Epstein said. "Hopefully, he will be part of a 'pen' that will be one of the best we've had in Boston."

A two-time All-Star who was Chicago's closer when it won the 2005 World Series—its first since 1917—Jenks saved 27 games for the White Sox last season but lost his closing job at the end of the year when he struggled with forearm problems. He did not pitch after saving both games in a doubleheader against Boston on Sept. 4.

"It was more of a scare for everyone than something that was actually wrong. Medically, I was

cleared to go," Jenks said. "Going into this spring I'm going to be 100 percent and ready to go."

The Red Sox have also added right-handers Matt Albers and Dan Wheeler to a bullpen that had the third-worst ERA in the AL last season. Lefties Rich Hill, Andrew Miller and Randy Miller have been signed to minor-league deals with invitations to spring training to give manager Terry Francona other options.

"We've added a lot of depth, a lot of experience, a lot of power arms and strike-throwers to our 'pen,'" Epstein said. "The last year was a struggle to give Tito some quality arms."

But what the team really needs is for Papelbon to bounce

back from the worst season of his career.

The former All-Star, who turned 30 last month, had 37 saves—the fewest in a full season in his career—and watched his ERA balloon from 1.84 for his first four-plus years to 3.90. He blew as many save opportunities, eight, as he had in the previous two seasons combined.

"Obviously, we still see him as our closer. Now we've got two power guys to set up for him," Epstein said, adding that he kept in touch with Papelbon's agent to let him know the team was pursuing Jenks. "Pap's fine with this. Who wouldn't be? Every time we add someone of quality to the bullpen, he's excited about it."

Jenks was second in White Sox history with 173 saves since joining Chicago midseason in 2005 and helping the club win its first World Series in 88 years. He had four saves in the postseason, pitching in all four Series games during a sweep of the Houston Astros.

Jenks saved 81 games over the next two years. After he missed the final 27 games of the 2010 season with ulnar neuritis in his right forearm, the White Sox did not tender him a contract, making him a free agent. General manager Kenny Williams said he would consider bringing Jenks back at a lower salary.

Instead, Jenks is with Boston, a team he said he rooted for as a kid.

Even though he won't be a closer any more.

"I'm just excited to get with the team that they're putting together this year," he said. "It's all mental. You've just got to go out there and stay more focused."

Jenks gets \$6 million in each of the next two seasons. He can earn an additional \$1 million annually in performance bonuses if he becomes a closer: \$200,000 each for 30, 40, 50, 55 and 60 games finished.

He also can earn award bonuses based on All-Star selection, winning a postseason MVP award, winning a Rolaids relief award and placing among the top three for the AL MVP or Cy Young Award.

Boston also designated infielder Brent Dlugach for assignment.



# No. 89: UConn tops UCLA, beats Florida St, 93-62



**HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)**—No. 89 came and went as effortlessly as nearly all their previous games. This season. Last season. And the season before.

UConn women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma, never at a loss for words, was close Tuesday night.

"It's pretty amazing. It really is," he said.

No exaggeration there.

His No. 1-ranked Huskies topped the 88-game winning streak set by John Wooden's UCLA men's team from 1971-74, beating No. 22 Florida State 93-62. Playing with the relentlessness that has become its trademark—and would have made Wooden proud—UConn blew past the Seminoles as it has so many other teams in the last 2 1/2 years.

"I don't want my team to compare themselves to anyone," Auriemma said. "I'm not John Wooden and this isn't UCLA. This is Connecticut and that's good enough."

Maya Moore had a career-high 41 points and 10 rebounds and freshman Bria Hartley added 21 points for the Huskies, who have not lost since April 6, 2008, in the NCAA tournament semifinals. Only twice during the record run has a team come within single digits of UConn—



Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma, left, poses with his team after Connecticut's 93-62 win over Florida State in an NCAA college basketball game in Hartford, Conn., Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2010.

Stanford in the NCAA championship game last season and Baylor in early November.

When the final buzzer sounded, UConn players sprinted across the floor to shake hands with the student section as fans held up "89" signs and "89" balloons bobbed in the stands behind center court. Two other fans raised a banner that read "The Sorcerer of Storrs"—a play on Wooden's nickname, "The Wizard of Westwood."

After a brief huddle in front of their bench, UConn players re-emerged wearing "89 and Counting" T-shirts. As fans

roared, the players bounced around at center court before posing for photos.

It is one more chapter of history for UConn, and perhaps the grandest.

Asked what he would recall from the incredible run, Auriemma mentioned a pair of experienced stars on this team: "I'll probably remember Maya Moore and Tiffany Hayes. And how incredibly difficult it is to play that many games in a row and win 'em all."

Connecticut long ago established itself as the marquee program in the women's game,

the benchmark by which all others are measured. The Huskies already own seven national titles and four perfect seasons under Auriemma, and they've produced a galaxy of stars that includes Rebecca Lobo, Diana Taurasi, Jennifer Rizzotti, Sue Bird and Tina Charles.

The streak, though, takes it to another level, certainly raising the profile of women's basketball and maybe all of women's athletics.

Two days after beating No. 11 Ohio State to tie UCLA, UConn toppled the mark in front of a sellout crowd of 16,294 at the

XL Center that included Wooden's grandson, Greg, attending his first women's game.

"My grandfather would have been absolutely thrilled to see his streak broken by a women's basketball team," the 47-year-old Wooden said. "He thought, especially in the last 10 years, that the best basketball was played at the collegiate level—and it wasn't by the men."

John Wooden was 99 when he died on June 4.

There was a festive atmosphere throughout the city, where building lights gleamed blue and white, and it was as electric as any Final Four inside the arena. Charles and UConn men's star Kemba Walker sat behind the Huskies' bench, and football coach Randy Edsall was there, too. Former NFL star Warrick Dunn, meanwhile, was cheering for his alma mater, Florida State.

With the game tied at 6, Moore and UConn (11-0) took command. The senior All-American had seven points during a 15-2 run to give Connecticut its first double-digit lead, and Moore's fadeaway jumper from the baseline extended the advantage to 34-15. Florida State (9-3) made a quick run to cut the lead to 11, but the Huskies weren't about to let anyone spoil this night.

UConn ripped off the next 16 points, capped by consecutive 3-pointers from Hartley

and a pull-up by Moore. Auriemma gave Hartley a kiss at the next timeout, and the tough-to-please coach was still grinning at halftime.

"She doesn't feel any of this," Auriemma said as he left the court. "She's kind of immune to all of this as a freshman. I love kids like that."

With a minute left to play and victory assured, Moore stood up and whirled a towel around her head. The All-American tossed it in the air briefly before sitting down for the final seconds, beaming as she and her teammates on the bench yelled encouragement at the players on the floor.

"All you guys from Florida State, it wasn't easy to be part of all of this," Auriemma said. "I hope you don't feel disrespected by all this. You played a heck of a game."

During his postgame news conference, Auriemma took a congratulatory phone call from President Barack Obama.

"Mr. President I really appreciate that. It's an incredible thing that these kids have done and we owe you a little bit of gratitude. That lesson you gave on the White House basketball court really paid off. I appreciate you doing that for them," Auriemma said. "We have not lost since you have been inaugurated and how 'bout we keep that streak going for a couple of more years, huh?"

# Christmas

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By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



After trailing for the first three quarters in Saturday's Master Basketball Federation of the NMI's Memorial Cup, the Undertakers pulled off a sweet come-from-behind win over Taga Security in the 45A division, while The House cruised to an easy romp of AON Blood in their 40A matchup last Thursday.

Both masters games were played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win improved Undertakers' win-loss record to 3-1. It is now in a three-way tie with Kitty Kat Ferrera Builders and

THEA

From Page 28

The two North Pacific netters will meet in Guam and then fly to Fiji where they will stay for three days to train before heading to Melbourne.

From Melbourne, Minor and company will go to Shepparton in Victoria to compete in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior

PASCUAL

From Page 28

2-over par 38 for a gross 83 and net 64.

He won by two shots against runner-up Mike Cruz, a 24-handicapper who tallied a gross 90 for a net 66. Rounding out the Top 3 and five strokes off

PROMOTER

From Page 28

Jr. is likely still impossible because of the Mayweather family's various legal troubles.

Pacquiao (52-3-2, 38 KOs) is on top of the boxing world after trouncing Antonio Margarito in a one-sided decision in Texas on Nov. 13. The 32-year-old Filipino congressman has won 13 straight fights while claiming world titles in an astonishing eight weight classes, most recently taking the WBC light

SAIPAN

From Page 28

director Perry Tenorio said.

The centerpiece marathon, which will cover a distance of 42.195 kilometers, will start at the American Memorial Park and take runners to the northern portion of Saipan up to the Marianas Resort turnaround point. From there, participants will head back and cruise the southern part of the island via the scenic Beach Road. The turnaround point in the south is pass San Antonio Beach Park and runners will return to AMP for the finish.

For the half marathon, which has a distance of 21.1 km, runners will leave AMP and pro-

Undertakers, The House top opponents

Top 45's for first place in the 45A division.

The House, meanwhile, remains the lone undefeated team in the 40A division with five straight wins to start the season.

The Undertakers went down early as the Taga duo of Sonny Ebuen and Russel Dequito combined for 12 points that helped them establish a 25-12 lead after the opening period.

After being stuffed offensively in the first quarter, Undertakers answered back and contained Taga to just 11 points in the second period.

The Undertakers' Joel Bumag tallied seven markers in the second period, while his team's

Championships at the Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club from Jan. 2 to 6.

The CNMI netter is entered in the girls U16 and U18 singles in Shepparton and in U18 doubles. Minor will be among the 21 players who will vie for the U16 singles title and she is unseeded in the 32-player draw. Emily Ryan and Melissa Esguerra are the Top 2 seeds in the girls U16 singles.

the lead was Ted Malaran, who logged a gross 91 and net 69.

Pascual ruled the monthly tournament, besting 14 other Fil-Taga members after saving par on 10 holes. Cruz saved par on five holes and had a birdie on the par-5 No. 18 hole. Malaran also had a birdie on the par-4 No. 4 hole and collected two pars.

middleweight belt with his win over Margarito.

Arum realizes he could have trouble selling a fight against a 39-year-old opponent who will be nearly 2 1/2 years removed from his last victory when he faces Pacquiao, but believes Mosley's skill and speed will challenge Pacquiao.

"That was obviously a negative, but Shane Mosley is capable of doing great things," Arum said.

Mosley (46-6-1, 39 KOs) is near the tail end of a remarkable career that began in 1993. The

ceed quickly to the southern portion of the course via Beach Road and return to the starting line for the finish.

The 10K run, a side event of the Saipan Marathon, will also start at AMP and have runners negotiating Beach Road for the turnaround point near Joeten Motors in San Jose and then back to AMP for the finish.

When the Saipan Marathon kicks off next year, all eyes will be focused on Japanese runners, as the 2010 winners of the men's and women's divisions are from Japan.

Masaharu Kijima of Niigita, Japan was the top overall finisher in the marathon, timing in at two hours, 53 minutes, and 15 seconds to win the men's division title.

In the women's division, Kiji-

defense made the stand and it was back to a one-possession game, 36-34, in favor of Taga at the half.

Adonis Macoto came up big in the third quarter for Taga with 11 points that helped them maintained the lead. Despite a couple of 3-pointers from the Undertakers' Buniag, they still fell behind, 50-55, heading into the final period.

Dave Camacho led Undertakers with six points in the fourth quarter and his team bit down again defensively to hold Taga to just 13 points at crunch time.

Buniag and Greg Kobel each hit key free throws late in the game that helped Undertakers steal it in the end. 70-68.

In the U18 division, Minor is one of the seven netters playing in the singles division. Alana Darghan is seeded first in the event, while D'Arcy Curtis-McDonald gets the No. 2 seeding. In the doubles, Minor will be teaming up with the Solomon Islands' Amanda Korinihona.

The tournament in Shepparton was the same event that Minor competed in January this year. The event was then known

Other Fil-Taga members who joined last weekend's final qualifier were Ernie Lopez, (net 71), Jhun Calma (72), Mando Guban (72), George Sablan Jr. (72), Rick Kautz (74), John Matsumoto (74), Greg Gamboa (75), Ronnie Santos (75), Freddie Cataluna (76), Rene Batalлоне (77), Matutino Adony (78), and Henry Cruz (79).

former three-division champion has won just two of his past five fights, getting walloped by Mayweather in an unanimous decision last May before fighting to a dull draw with Sergio Mora on Sept. 18.

The deal further cements Mosley's acrimonious split from Golden Boy, Oscar De La Hoya's promotional company.

Mosley was a founding partner in Golden Boy, but he has cut ties with the organization since his draw with Mora last September, even refusing to answer phone calls from Golden

ma's compatriot, Mayu Mochizuki, 3:10:03, to stun Saipan's Mamiko Oshima-Berger, who won the 2008 and 2009 editions of the race.

Japanese runners also ruled the half marathon with Kenichi Yamauchi (1:17:24) and Mari Ozaki (1:19:39) prevailing in the men's and women's divisions, respectively. In the 10K run, Saipan's Noriko Jim won the women's race with a time of 41:33, while another Japanese runner—Takeshi Aoyama—took the men's honors with his time 37:51.

Meanwhile, registration for the three races is now open. Registration fee for full marathon is \$100 (for U.S./Guam/International runners) and only \$55 for CNMI participants and \$70 for

Buniag finished with 18 points to lead four teammates in double digits, while Ebuen led Taga with 17 points.

In Thursday's game, The House dominated AON, 94-58.

George Masga and Tony Diaz each tallied eight markers in the opening period to help The House go out in front, 23-8.

The House kept the foot on the gas pedal in the second quarter and held a daunting 40-22 advantage at halftime. Diaz added five more points in the period.

AON struggled to get rolling from the tip off; Frank Babauta led the team with just six markers in the entire first half.

AON found some offense af-

as Ducats GV Championships with Minor making it to the finals of the consolation draw in the U14 singles.

Two days after the tournament in Victoria, Minor will suit up in her second competition—the 2011 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup—at the Albury Tennis Association in Albury.

The tournament will run from Jan. 8 to 11 with Minor entered in the girls U16 and U18 dou-

Kautz tied Pascual for the lowest gross score of the day and after deducting his nine handicap, he finished with a net 74. Kautz birdied the par-4 No.4 hole, par-3 No. 7, and par-3 No. 13, and could have carded better than gross 83 if not for his misfortunes on hole No. 18. He had a triple bogey in the par-5 No. 18 hole.

Boy CEO Richard Schaefer. Mosley apparently was angry that Golden Boy pushed Marquez, the talented Mexican champion, as Pacquiao's next opponent.

Golden Boy and Top Rank, Arum's promotion, are involved in a bitter rivalry. The companies have become unwilling to match any of their fighters against each other, which likely proved to be an insurmountable obstacle for Golden Boy's Marquez.

Pacquiao and Marquez have fought twice before, with a

half marathon (for U.S./Guam/International runners) and \$45 (for CNMI). Individuals signing up before 5pm on Feb. 10, 2011 can avoid a late fee of \$10. The final day for all registrations will be on Feb. 18 at 5pm.

MVA will recognize the Top 6 finishers in each race for both the men's and women's divisions at the banquet after the event.

The full marathon will start at 4:30am, followed by the half marathon at 5:45am, and finally the 10K run at 6am.

For more information about the Saipan Marathon, visit the MVA website at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com), or contact Ed Diaz of the MVA at 1-670-664-3200/01 or [ediaz@mymarianas.com](mailto:ediaz@mymarianas.com). Japanese participants should register via Run Net at <http://runnet.jp/>.

ter the break, but the effort was thwarted by a big 30-point performance by The House in the third quarter.

Bruce Berline led The House with 11 points in the period and received eight more in support from Diaz.

The scoreboard read, 70-38, in favor of The House at the start of the last quarter and The House was not finished.

They ran up the score to pour salt in AON's wound. Masga led The House with nine points in the fourth quarter.

Masga and Diaz both finished with team highs of 24 points apiece, while Babauta led AON with 21 points in

bles and singles event. In Albury, she will meet some of the players who are also entered in the tournament in Victoria.

It will also be Minor's second trip in Albury, after posting a 1-1 mark in the U14 singles division of the annual event last year.

From Albury, Minor will return to Victoria for the 2011 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships. The Victo-

Meanwhile, Fil-Taga would like to extend its condolences to the family of Father Manny Corcuera, who passed away on Dec. 19 due to illness.

Corcuera is an active member of the association and even won this year's August Ace. With his passing, only the winners in the 11 monthly tournaments will contest the

draw in 2004 and a split-decision win for Pacquiao in 2008. Both fights were thrilling contests that easily could have been

the beat down.

**SATURDAY**

**Undertakers 70** – Buniag 18, Camacho 12, Villasan 12, Demapan 11, Kobel 5, Vergara 5.

**Taga Security 68** – Ebuen 17, Macoto 15, Culala 9, Anasan 8, Dequito 8, Bucalig 4, Puno 4, Morales 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 12-25, 34-36, 50-55, 70-68.

**THURSDAY**

**The House 94** – Diaz 24, Masga 24, Berline 19, Pineda 15, Abedes 8, Palacios 4.

**AON Blood 58** – Babauta 21, Butalid 10, Aldan 8, Morales 6, Cepeda 5, Bocalig 4, Cabrera 2, Valdez 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 23-8, 40-22, 70-38, 94-58.

ria event will take place from Jan. 8 to 11 at the Wodonga Tennis Centre, in Wodonga. Minor is listed in the girls U16 singles and doubles events in Wodonga.

In the tournament in Wodonga last year, Minor won two matches in the main draw before losing in the quarterfinals.

After completing her Land Down Under trip, Minor will return to Saipan on Jan. 23.

Golfer of the Year plum. The list includes Joe Miranda and Breboneria (January), Joseph Fernandez (February), Jason Gatdula (March), Rommel Cruz (April), Lopez (May), Jacinto Ramones (June), Vic Romana (July), Rene Meimban (September), Batalloones (October), Gamboa (November), and Pascual (December).

decided for Marquez, who has been campaigning for a third bout since moments after their second fight ended.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
<b>EASTERN CONFERENCE</b>				
<b>Atlantic Division</b>				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	22	4	.846	—
New York	16	12	.571	7
Philadelphia	11	17	.393	12
Toronto	10	18	.357	13
New Jersey	9	20	.310	14 1/2
<b>Southeast Division</b>				
Miami	21	9	.700	—
Atlanta	18	12	.600	3
Orlando	16	12	.571	4
Charlotte	9	19	.321	11
Washington	7	19	.269	12
<b>Central Division</b>				
Chicago	17	9	.654	—
Indiana	13	14	.481	4 1/2
Milwaukee	11	16	.407	6 1/2
Detroit	9	19	.321	9
Cleveland	8	20	.286	10
<b>WESTERN CONFERENCE</b>				
<b>Southwest Division</b>				
San Antonio	24	3	.889	—
Dallas	23	5	.821	1 1/2
New Orleans	16	12	.571	8 1/2
Houston	13	15	.464	11 1/2
Memphis	12	17	.414	13
<b>Northwest Division</b>				
Oklahoma City	20	9	.690	—
Utah	20	9	.690	—
Denver	16	10	.615	2 1/2
Portland	15	14	.517	5
Minnesota	6	23	.207	14
<b>Pacific Division</b>				
L.A. Lakers	21	8	.724	—
Phoenix	13	14	.481	7
Golden State	10	18	.357	10 1/2
L.A. Clippers	8	21	.276	13
Sacramento	5	21	.192	14 1/2
<b>Yesterday's Games</b>				
Oklahoma City 99, Charlotte 81				
Dallas 105, Orlando 99				
Chicago 121, Philadelphia 76				
New Jersey 101, Memphis 94				
Golden State 117, Sacramento 109, OT				
Milwaukee 98, L.A. Lakers 79				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				
LOCAL SCORES				
<b>MASTERS CAGE STANDINGS</b>				
<b>40A Division</b>				
The House	5	0		
Armotech	4	1		
Islander Rent-A-Car	3	1		
Island Apparel	2	2		
O'Acres	2	2		
Jhem's Restaurant	1	5		
AON Blood	0	4		
<b>45A Division</b>				
Kitty Kat Ferrera Builders	3	1		
Top 45's	3	1		
Undertakers	3	1		
Taga Security	3	2		
Brotherhood	0	3		
X-clusive	0	4		



# 2010 NMIFA Men's FA Cup

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



MP United's Nick Swaim hits a penalty kick.



A Korean Football Association on Saipan's Young Ha Hwang gets a nudge from a Paire defender.



An Inter Godfather's striker tries to control possession against MP United.



Inter Godfather's David Duenas stops the ball during a regular season game against MP United in the 2010 NMIFA Men's FA Cup at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



A Paire Football Club goalie kicks the ball.



Wild Bill's Brad Ruszala and Tan Holdings' Jack Guo chase the ball.



Paire Football Club's Jason Schroeder, left, is defended by Korean Football Association on Saipan's Man Ki Doh.



A Tan Holdings players hits the ball against a Wild Bill's defender.



A BDS-Guangdong player falls and losses the ball after colliding against Wild Bill's defenders.



Wild Bill's and BDS-Guangdong strikers battle for the ball.



Mavericks beat  
new-look Magic  
for Florida sweep

24

# Saipan Tribune Sports

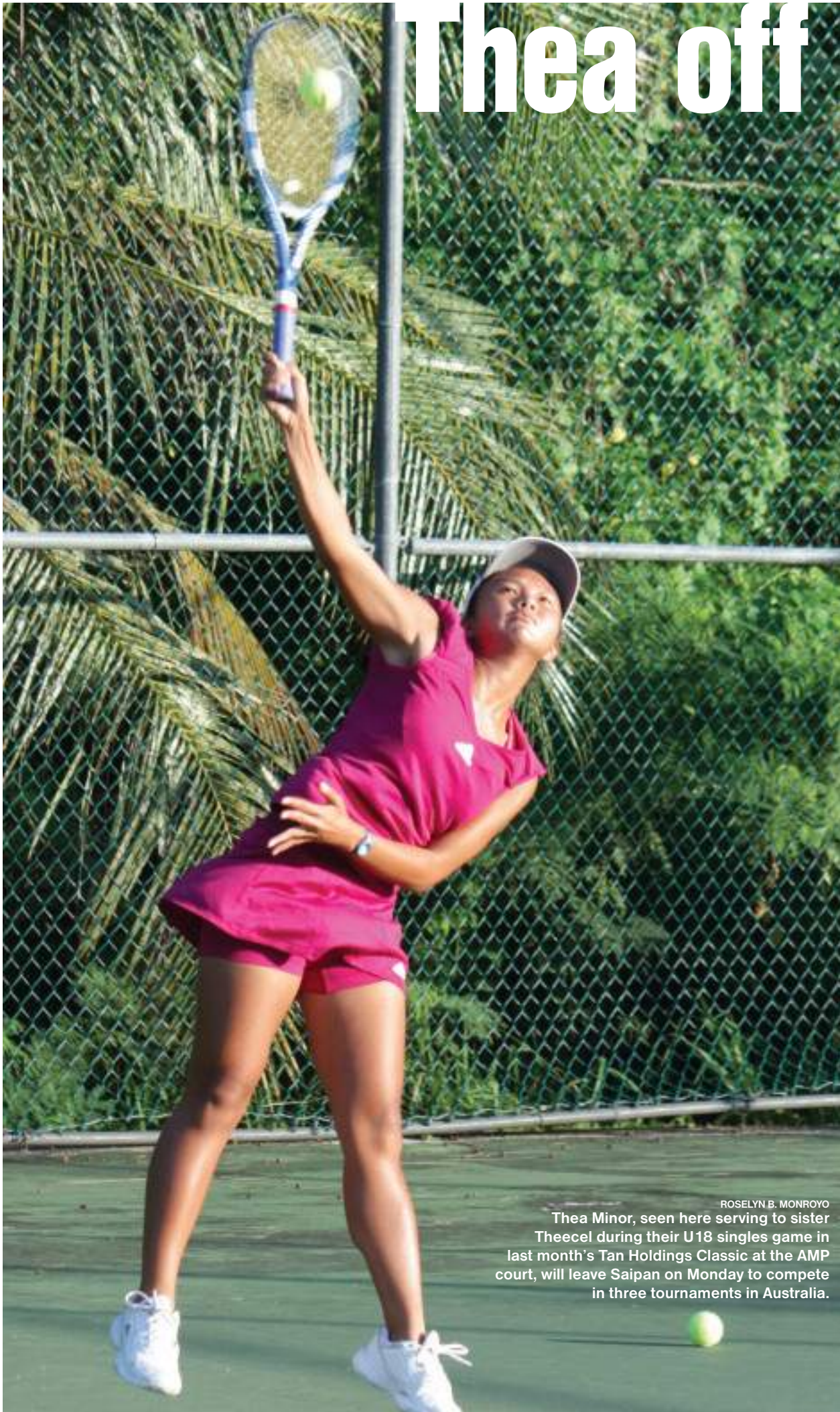
28 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2010



No. 89:  
UConn tops  
UCLA, beats  
Florida St,  
93-62

25

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Thea Minor, seen here serving to sister Theecel during their U18 singles game in last month's Tan Holdings Classic at the AMP court, will leave Saipan on Monday to compete in three tournaments in Australia.

## Thea off to Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis player Thea Minor will be celebrating the New Year away from home, as she will leave for Australia on Monday to compete in three tournaments in the Land Down Under.

The 15-year-old netter will leave Saipan on Dec. 27 and will be away for about a month to join the Pacific Oceania Touring Team that will compete in Victoria and New South Wales. Minor and Guam's Chloe Gadsen are the only two representatives of the North squad on the touring team.

See THEA on Page 26



## Pascual takes Fil-Taga December Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Larry Pascual earned the last qualifying slot to the 2010 Fil-Taga

Golfer of the Year Tournament after topping the December Ace event last Sunday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. The 19-



Pascual

handicapper ended up with both the lowest gross and net scores of the day to clinch the December Ace crown and make it to the club's yearend event. Pascual started the tournament a bit slow with a 9-over par 45 on the front nine before displaying a strong performance in the last nine holes with his

See PASCUAL on Page 26

## Promoter: Pacquiao to fight Mosley on May 7

GREG BEACHAM  
AP SPORTS WRITER

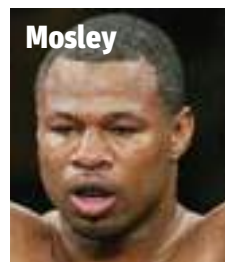
Manny Pacquiao plans to fight Shane Mosley in his next bout on May 7 in Las Vegas.

Promoter Bob Arum told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the deal will be done after Mosley's lawyers approve the final paperwork for the WBO welterweight title fight at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Arum says Pacquiao chose the bout because Mosley is the most accomplished and famous boxer in the field of candidates, which included



Pacquiao



Mosley

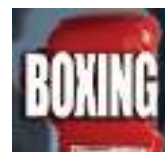
Juan Manuel Marquez and welterweight champion Andre Berto.

"He's the most recognizable name, and it's a difficult

fight for him," said Arum, who met with Pacquiao in the Philippines last week. "People are also saying, 'Well, why hasn't he fought an African-American fighter?' He's doing that, but mostly it's because Mosley is the biggest name."

Pacquiao also realizes a potential superbout with Floyd Mayweather

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## Saipan Marathon to start March trifecta

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The Saipan Marathon will kick off the trifecta of big events in March in the

Participants in the 2010 Saipan Marathon leave the starting line at the American Memorial Park.



CNMI, as it hits the road on March 5.

The lung-busting, but scenic race that lured about 600 runners this year, is expected to draw more participants from the Commonwealth, Guam, Korea, and Japan next year. It is part of the trio of big races on Saipan.

The XTERRA Saipan Championship (March 12) and Tagaman Triathlon (March 19) are the other two.

"The Saipan Marathon is quickly becoming the signature event for the Northern Marianas. Our goal is to put on another great event in 2011, and to continue to work with the community to grow the Saipan Marathon into one of the premiere marathons of the region," Marianas Visitors Authority managing

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